

Sketch-Book No. 21

continued from page 236 of  
a small book in boards; Viz. from  
July 31<sup>st</sup> 1847 to Decr. 31, 1847 in  
clusive.

1847  
August

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| 1<br><br>2<br><br>3<br><br><br>4<br><br>5<br><br>6<br><br>7<br><br>8<br><br>9 | }<br>Indi<br>an in<br>quiries | <hr/> <u>Sunday.</u> Morn cloudy, wind SW;<br>some rain fell, day partly fair.<br><u>Monday.</u> Morn fair, wind W.<br>and fair day.<br><u>Tuesday.</u> Morn fair, wind SW &<br>the day fair.<br>Revd. Mr. Day of Marlborough<br>called on me to inquire about In<br>dian transactions in this town.<br>Enquiries of this kind are becoming<br>frequent with men who make tours<br>through the country, especially with those<br>who have looked over our antiquities.<br>Mr Day proceeded to South Deerfield to<br>view Lothrop's battle ground, and<br>the monument at that place.<br>The Indian name of Marlborough is<br>said to have been <u>Okamakamesit</u> ,<br>and first settled in 1654, and to have<br>suffered much in the Indian wars.<br><u>Wednesday:</u> Morn fair, wind N.W. &<br>day fair & warm<br><u>Thursday.</u> M. fair, wind N and SW<br>P.M. cloudy.<br><u>Friday.</u> M. cloudy, wind N & W;<br>day cool & mostly cloudy~<br><u>Saturday</u> M. cloudy with some rain<br>wind NE<br><u>Sunday.</u> M. cloudy, wind NE, and<br>considerable rain<br><u>Monday.</u> M. cloudy, with rain, and<br>NE wind. |
|---|-------------------------------|---|

August  
 10 Tuesday M. fair, wind SW.; day fair and hot.

11 Wednesday. M. fair, wind SW and fair and hot day. a small shower & some lightning

12 Thursday. M. fair, wind W. day fair & hot. Paid my own & sons taxes to the Collector, Fulton, amounting to \$15.56

13 Friday. M. fair, wind NW; day fair and hot.

14 Saturday. M. fair, wind W. & SW and warm air.

15 Sunday. M. fair, wind NW & NE; day fair

16 Monday M. fair, wind NE & day fair but hazy.

17 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE and NW an hot.

18 Wednesday. M. cloudy, with some rain & SW wind: soon fair & thus continued

19 Thursday. M. partially cloudy with some rain and wind W.

20 Friday. M. fair, wind SW. and cool air

21 Saturday. M. fair, wind SW; day fair but many broken clouds.

22 Sunday M. fair, wind S.W.: many scattering clouds during the day.

23 Monday. M. fair, wind not noticed.

24 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE; fair day & pleasant air.

25 Wednesday. M. fair, wind NE & SW

26 Thursday M. fair, wind NW & fair day.

August  
 27 Friday M. fair, wind SW, day mostly fair, but cloudy at night with some rain.  
 28 Saturday. M. cloudy, with rain & NW wind.  
 29 Sunday. M. thinly cloudy, wind SW, but the day fair & pleasant.  
 30 Monday. M. fair, wind NW; day fair & pleasant.  
 31 Tuesday. M. fair, wind SW. and fair day.  
 September  
 1. Wednesday. M. fair, wind NW; day clear & pleasant.  
 2 Thursday. M cloudy, wind NW; soon became fair & so continued Mr. Ebenezer Sexton died this morn aged about 81 years  
 3 Friday. M. cloudy, but sun soon seen; and SE & variable day hazy  
 4 Saturday. M. cloudy, wind S. at 4 PM a shower with some thunder a rare occurrence  
 5 Sunday M. cloudy, wind SE and variable; day cloudy, but som[e] sun seen occasionally.  
 6 Monday. M fair, wind NW, and fair day  
 7 Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE and day partly cloudy.  
 8 Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind NW day cloudy & a fall of rain.  
 9 Thursday. M broken clouds, wind S. day fair with some showers, a Letter from Son & Daughter, at Vergennes, Vt.

September	<u>Friday</u> M. cloudy, wind NE, and day
10	fair.
11	<u>Saturday</u> . M. cloudy, wind NE & some rain.
12	<u>Sunday</u> . M. cloudy, wind NE, and day cloudy
13	<u>Monday</u> . M. cloudy with rain, wind NE; rain last night heavy; the day partly fair
14	<u>Tuesday</u> M. fair, wind NE and day alternately cloudy.
15	<u>Wednesday</u> M. fair, wind NW and day fair; wind PM West.
Infrequency of thunder showers	<p>For several days past I have used a fire in my sitting room, &amp; probably our hot season is past. Part of the summer has been hot and with a remarkable absence of thunder showers, and I think no severe one has here occurred. This change in the aspect and severity of the showers, seems not to be proven to our young people, though I have noticed the fact for several years past.</p> <p>To account for these variations in the phenomena of thunder showers no satisfactory data offer. We may suppose variations are taking place in the lower atmosphere, from the clearing off the woods of our extensive country, but in what manner this should effect evaporation and electricity is not clear. Of one thing we may rest sure viz: that the laws of nature are inviolable and fixed, yet not fully understood</p>
Remarks on	
16	<u>Thursday</u> . M. fair, wind SW; last night a small frost occurred, seen on the morn upon the grass; the day very clear; cool, and a considerable breeze prevailed.

Septem ber 16		For some time past we have heard little from the move ments of our armies in Mexico; but recent intelligence says, Gen. Scott has arrived near the city of Mexico, had two battles, and driven the Mexicans into the city, with a considerable Loss of men; the particulars not received
Gen. } Scott's } Army }		
17		<u>Friday</u> . M fair, wind N.W. and cold air, rendering fire agreeable. a small frost seen on the morn & a fine clear day & cool air.
18		<u>Saturday</u> M. cloudy, some rain, wind N, day partially fair The papers now give us some details of Gen. Scott's battles on the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> of August, in the vicinity of the city of Mexico, from which it appears, that the fighting was severe and much loss sustained on both sides. The Mexi cans were covered by strong batteries and much artillery, which were car ried by desperate charges. The New York & S Carolina regiments of volunteers suffered severely, the latter nearly cut to pieces; Imperfect lists of the killed wound ed officers is given, and the whole loss of Scott's force, about 10 or 11,000; the Mexicans loss much more severe. The returns are probably imperfect, and official accounts are wanting. Gen Scott is said to have received a slight wound in his leg. The Mexicans retreated to their City, and the following <u>armistice</u> agreed on "Neither army to be reinforced nor build new defences during the armistice, nor go beyond
Scotts } Battles } of the } 10 <sup>th</sup> & } 20 <sup>th</sup> } ult. }		

Sept  
18

Report  
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peace }

19

Anniver  
sary of  
the bat  
tle at  
Bemus  
heights }

Loss  
of men }

Reflec  
tions }

its present line; in short the two  
armies are in no way to interfere with  
each other, without 48 hours notice”  
Peace it is expected will soon follow;  
and the Daily Republican (Springfield  
of this day, says, that a treaty has been  
signed by Mr. Trist and the Mexican  
commissioners: Probably true, and on  
terms dictated at Washington anti  
bellum.

Sunday. M. fair, wind E.  
most of the day clouded, & air cool  
Seventy years ago this day the patriot force  
under General Gates met the dis  
ciplined veterans of General Burgoyne,  
on Bemus Heights in the north part  
of Stillwater in the state of New-York,  
and a severe contest ensued, which  
terminated in the what was called  
a drawn battle. The British held  
the contested ground and the ameri  
cans retired to their fortified lines about  
a mile distant, both sides suffering a  
severe loss, for the number engaged.  
Total Americans, 320 including 30  
officers; on the part of the British as  
acknowledged by themselves their loss was up  
wards of 500, including wounded &  
missing. The British 62d regiment  
numbering on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 541, in  
cluding officers, it is stated, did not exceed  
60 men & 5 or 6 officers, fit for du  
ty, after the battle. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of  
October, following, a second battle was  
fought, nearly on the same ground, and  
Burgoyne defeated & compelled to retreat  
to Saratoga, where he surrendered his  
army to the Americans.

Most of the heroes who fought on  
these memorable fields have gone to  
their

Sept  
19

their last homes, and the  
obscure mounds of the slain still  
“Tell a sad tale of glory gone,  
of valor sleeping dark and lone”  
At this eventful period, the wounded  
patriot, struggling under his  
mortal stroke, consoled him  
self with the reflection that he  
had risked his life to establish  
the independence of his country  
and the happiness of his posterity.

Mexi  
can  
War }

How different the motives of the pre  
sent war with Mexico? Alas! in this  
we behold a war of invasion and  
of injustice, having for its object the  
conquest of a neighboring republic,  
without regard to right, or good neigh  
borhood. In this war we see corps of  
young men inlisting under the  
stimulus of chivalry, to kill  
Mexicans for daring to resist

No sup  
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from  
patriot  
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our encroachments on their terri  
tory. Alas! What a different stim  
ulus from that of the heroes of our  
revolution, who had in view the  
right of men and the happiness  
of society! When we hear of hundreds  
& thousands of men falling in the  
battle fields of Mexico, we cannot but  
enquire what consolation the mortally  
wounded officer or soldier can derive  
from his empty chivalry; At this  
arises the question will the forcibly  
presented why am I here thus ex  
posing my life? Once the gloss of  
military chivalry will varnish; nor  
will any of the consolation of our revo  
lutionary patriots be found. History  
may relate their exploits, but it will  
also

Also tell of the injustice of the cause in  
 which they were engaged, and felt.  
 A few names may be remembered, but the  
 patriot will regret they fell in a  
 cause which had not justice & hu  
 manity for its design.

Sept 19

20

Thou  
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 to peace  
 with Mex  
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 terms  
 of a  
 treaty

The ra  
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 system

Monday m. partially cloudy, wind  
 N.E. and day generally cloudy. the  
 air rather warmer than some days  
 past. We wait with impatience for  
 the results of Gen. Scotts battles  
 in the vicinity of the Mexican cap  
 ital, and ardently hope they will  
 be an equitable peace with the Mexican  
 Government. What terns Mr.  
 Trist is instructed to offer we know  
 not; but from the obvious  
 design of the war, in the first  
 instance, no doubt [ ] [ ]  
 that one half or two thirds of the  
 Mexican territory is to be annexed  
 to the United States; and to give  
 the transfer the appearance of a  
 purchase, no doubt Mr. Polk's three  
 millions of pocket money will be  
 called into requisition. The ra  
 pacious eye of democracy was early  
 turned to this section of Mexico, and  
 Presidents Monroe & Polk have more  
 than hinted at the course we are to fol  
 low in regard to it; and whether  
 that feeble republic, will be permitted  
 to retain an independent government  
 is a doubtful question. The next  
 stride in this rapacious system, will  
 be the Island of Cuba, and are long  
 other West India islands. Let the nations  
 of Europe look to their interests in season.



- Sept  
21      Tuesday. M. Cloudy, wind N.W.  
most of day fair.  
Letters to and from friends } Wrote a letter to Arthur & Elizabeth at Vergennes Vt.; and received letters from Dr. Sevitt and wife, at Ridgeway state of New-York in answer to one to her. She says their neighbors in Ridgeway have been uncommonly sickly. This season & many have died I suppose of fevers. This it is found that fevers will often prevail in new countries, even in our Latitude. Is this owing to vegetable decomposition, which in a miasma ceases when the surface of the ground is thoroughly cultivated? The state of health in this town has been good during the season, our Dr says he never knew the season more healthy.  
At New Orleans the yellow fever has been prevalent, and the papers say so continuous, That place, it is believed, will always prove a Golgotha, and no prudent northern man will select it for a residence
- 22      Wednesday M. fair, wind N.E. & changed to W.  
This day autumnal Equinox and day and night of equal length.  
To Dr Eeles of Ohio } Wrote a letter to Dr Eeles of Lithopolis, Ohio, by his wife Lucretia & sister Elizabeth, who sets out for that place tomorrow. They proceed by rail road to Buffalo; then by steam boat up Lake Erie, and thence the most direct route to their destination, a long route for ladies without aid & protection.
- 23      Thursday M foggy, wind N.W. but soon fair and very clear day. P.M. wind SW

Sept 23 Took a ride to the west bank of the Connecticut, and spent the day at Mr Smith's, near the old Cobb Ferry: the lands along the river are generally cleared and cultivated, affording pretty good farms to our southern extremity. The boating and lumber business in the river has diminished since the construction of our rail road, but still some heavy articles are transported on the river. I noticed a large boat with sails ascending by a southerly wind. Probably some of the heavy articles will continue to be transported on the river in preference to rail road conveyance. At a suitable height of water the navigation from Hartford to our Cheapside landing is good safe and eligible.

24 Friday. M. cloudy, wind N.E. and day continued cloudy~

On Wednesday last a Democratic Convention held at Worcester, nominated Caleb Cushing, one of Mr Polk's newly fledged Generals of the Mexican army, as the candidate for their next governor. This restless party will continue their efforts so long as they believe it possible to effect their objects by deceiving the people by false representations. Hence it appears, that the next president and our next governor is to be taken from the army. without regard to civil qualifications. When a people become thus enamored of military show, it is a proof that they have lost their political discernment and would readily submit to a despot. A military commander may be able in the field, and yet weak, and even

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&c.

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Governor

Septtr  
 24  
 General  
 Cush  
 ing the  
 favorite }

even corrupt, as civil leader.  
 Washington was an exception but  
 at this day where are we to look  
 for Washingtons? Not in the hands  
 of the demagogues of wild democra  
 cy, who would prefer a Caligula  
 or a Nero, to a virtuous civilian.  
 General Cushing's ambitious views  
 are, however, too well known in Massa  
 chusetts by the discerning part of the  
 people to admit of popularity; nor  
 has he acquired this éclat of his sword  
 which democracy deems indispensably  
 necessary to high state elevation. Yet  
 believing it possible that the General's  
 feather and cockade, with his dis  
interested patriotism might charm young  
 men at the ballot box, the leaders of  
 this uneasy party have presented  
 his name as candidate for the first offi  
 cer of our State. When he accepted of the  
 command of our volunteer regiments,  
 did the General anticipate this ef  
 fort of his friends? Men less eagle  
 eyed, have pursued such a course,  
 and sometimes successfully, and the  
 General lacks not perseverance ~  
 From the annual efforts of this  
 uneasy party, or rather I should say,  
 the leaders of the party, one unac  
 quantied with the conditions of  
 our state, might suppose the people  
 labored under some great grievance,  
 which called for a remedy, but  
 on investigation he finds nothing  
 to support this supposition, and  
 the whole uneasiness is found  
 to exist in the mad ambition of a  
 very few, who knew how to disturb  
 the harmony of society. Divested of  
 their uneasy men, our political machine  
 would move on without clashing, and the  
 people would be as happy at life [     ]

Re  
 marks  
 on the  
 nomi  
 nation }

Sept  
24

Duty  
of the  
Patriot }

of man admits. What patriot then,  
can rest complacently under these dis-  
turbings forms. Which his duty compels  
him to resist at every returning elec-  
tion, as he would an enemy ever  
ready for the destruction of your lives  
property, and all that is dear in  
well regulated society.

Slavery  
resolu-  
tions in  
the con-  
vention  
and  
rejected }

In the course of proceeding of the con-  
vention a series of abolition resolutions  
were introduced. At first, it is said  
they were received with manifest marks  
of disapprobation and some perter-  
lation: but order being restored their  
reading was silently permitted, and  
they laid on the table. The master  
spirits no doubt saw that this step  
would meet the frown of their south-  
ern brethren, and the resolutions  
of course suffered to sleep undisturbed.  
No! these sticklers of the rights of  
man must not touch upon slavery,  
the ground basis of southern liberty  
with which "northern men have  
no concern." The members of the  
convention may flatter themselves that  
they still rouse a war spirit at the  
coming election and carry the strong  
works of the friends of liberty; but it  
is believed the good sense & firmness  
of a majority of the people of the state,  
will again put to flight utopian  
forces.

25

Saturday. M. cloudy, wind N.E.  
and a cloudy day. The air rather cool  
and soak rain at the close

26

Sunday M. cloudy & wind N.E.;  
day continued cloudy, with cold air

27

Monday m. cloudy, NE wind;  
day generally cloudy. More

Sept 27      More than a month has elapsed since General Scott's battles at the City of Mexico, yet no official account has been before the public. In cases of severe losses it is sometimes good policy in a Commander or a government to withhold full details of the losses sustained in battle, especially when the army is to be supplied with recruits from the populace, as in the present war, where volunteers are to be enlisted for the occasion, in which a chivalrous spirit is the stimulus.

No of }  
ficial }  
accounts }  
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marks }  
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In Napoleon's battles accurate details of losses, I believe, were seldom given to the public; but his conscription system, enabled him to supply his losses on the shortest requisition. After the retreat from Moscow in which Napoleon's army was nearly annihilated, he raised an additional force of 350,000, within a few months by the aid of his conscription.

In our war with Mexico, we have to contend with a more distinctive power than the military arm of that republic,--the malaria of a tropical country--details of which will not appear until the war closes when we may look for a horrid account of suffering from the medical department.

28      Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind S.W. soon after noon the sun appeared and the remainder of day fair & pleasant, wind west.

Wednesday. M. fair, wind W.  
 and day clear  
 Sept 29 The Whig Convention of our state  
 assembles at Springfield this day for  
 the nomination of Governor & Lieut. Gover  
 State Conven }  
 tion at Spring }  
 field }  
 for }  
 nomi }  
 nation }  
 of Governor }  
 Probable result }  
 Design of the war obvious }  
 Wednesday. M. fair, wind W.  
 and day clear  
 Sept 29 The Whig Convention of our state  
 assembles at Springfield this day for  
 the nomination of Governor & Lieut. Gover  
 for the year ensuing. No provision  
 is made in the Constitution for this  
 formal nomination; but at a time  
 when a misguided party is endeavor  
 ing to effect [ ] innovations in the  
 policy of the state & the practice such convention may  
 be convenient, if not necessary, Were  
 the nomination left to the news-  
 papers, many names might be pre  
 sented, and so divide the votes of  
 the people that no election would  
 take place. But it is to be regretted  
 that this necessity exists, and probably  
 will continue to exist, as long as so man  
 ny are eligible to the office. The  
 people can be misled; The  
 present Incumbent it is presumed  
 will be renominated, and be  
 preferred by the people, to  
 one now seeking fame by his  
 sword in a war of invasion  
 for the conquest of territory  
 from a neighboring republic;  
 whose only crime is the defense  
of its rights, against flagrant  
 usurpation and injustice, at which  
 patriotism recoils, and humanity  
 shudders. A war commenced  
 by enlawful strides of the Presi  
 dent and now continued for  
 the consummation of its base  
 designs:- Viz: the annexation of  
 a large portion of the ~~Mexican~~  
 territory of Mexico, to the United States  
 for objects obvious to common dis  
 cernment.

Sept 30      Thursday. M cloudy, with some rain, wind S.W.; Sun appeared about half past ten, and the day continued fair & cloudy alternately; the air rather cool.

October 1    Friday. M. foggy, wind SW, variable but sun soon out and dry

Proceedings of the State Convention at Springfield } of yesterday give the proceedings of the Whig Convention at that place. George Ashman was chosen President, and on taking the chair made an appropriate address touching upon Mr Polk's war, with his usual good sense, He said, "We have prospects of a peace, it is true. But who can say whether the terms will not be almost if not quite as bad as war. Darkness clouds the future. We are committing a greater crime indeed than war; we are to rob another nation of its fine harbors, rivers and lands—and for what To present to the world the spectacle of a nation hanging new fitters for human beings. Massachusetts has once expressed her views upon this state of things. But we should not separate without once again ~~more~~ in the most solemn manner announcing our deep seated hatred of this robbery of the lands of other countries in which to implement and stimulate anew the institution of slavery."

Mr Ashmans remarks at. }

State of the votes for Governor &c } On collecting votes for a candidate for Governor George N. Briggs had 571 and 22 of scutting. It was then voted that Mr Briggs be unanimously nominated. On counting the votes for Lt. Governor, the number was found to be 572, all for John Neece.

In the course of the proceedings Daniel Webster

October 1	Webster delivered a speech, an abstract of which is given in the <u>Daily</u> , the <u>whole</u> to be printed at Boston under the sanction of Mr Webster.
Mr Webster's speech at.	A series of Resolutions, expressing the sentiments of the Convention on the <u>war</u> were passed, one of which recommends <u>Daniel Webster</u> of Mass to the favorable consideration of the Whig national convention, as a Candidate for the office of President of the U. States, and Rufus Choate of Boston and Wm G Bates of Westfield were chosen for Delegates to the said Whig Convention with substitutes, if required.
Recommendation of the the Presidency	On naming a candidate for the Presidency <u>at this time</u> , there was a diversity of opinion in the Convention, some believing it would have no useful effect.
Diversity of opinion in the convention	Mr Webster's great political talents & long public services, no doubt, present the strongest claims to the Presidency; but these very claims will prevent his selection for that office: And I will venture the assertion that
Remarks on the recommendation	no eminent men will be selected for that office, so long as a majority of the people believe that great talent and aristocracy are connected. Some military Chief, or obscure individual, known to be subservient to wild democracy, will be nominated & probably elected. A Washington, at this day, would be repudiated by the arts of demagogues.
Words of the Resolution adopted	Notwithstanding these considerations the Convention adopted the following: <u>Resolved</u> Therefore That the Whig of Massachusetts earnestly & unanimously recommend <u>Daniel Webster</u> of Massachusetts, to the favorable consideration of the Whig national Convention, as a candidate for the office of President of the United States.



- Octr 2      Saturday M. fair, wind SW, and a fair day followed, & wind changed to N.E. We have nothing certain in relation to a peace with Mexico Flushed with a series of victory Mr Polk and his Cabinet may insist on terms, to which Mexico cannot accede in which case the war may be continued & the Mexicans taught to cope with our chivalrous troops.
- Late news from Mexico } Saturday Evening. The Springfield Daily of this day, announces, that "the peace negotiation have failed: that hostilities were renewed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, when another battle took place, in which the Mexicans were defeated; and that, at last accounts, our troops had possession of a portion of the city, and were driving the Mexicans before them Gen. Worth has been wounded."
- Hostilities renewed } The accounts are derived from the N. York Journal of Commerce and Herald of yesterday, via Veracruz.
- 3      From the details received, it appears the Mexicans are far from surrendering their rights to our invaders, and that a spirit is rousing in the country that may, at length, show they are not ready for vassalage.
- 3      Sunday. M. fair, wind N.E. and fair day. Our night are now generally frosty, and some of the old elms & some maples begin to show the fall hue. Towards the close of the day, wind S.E.
- 4      Monday. M. foggy, but soon clear with NE wind, and a fair day succeeded.

Octr 4	<u>Association of American Geologists and Naturalists.</u> This association met at Boston last week on Tuesday & continued in business to Saturday, inclusive. A great variety of subjects were brought forward & discussed Among the members of the association are some of our most scientific men who freely bestow their labors for the promotion of useful knowledge. Their meetings are held, by adjournments from place to place, as circumstances dictate. This meeting was adjourned to the 3d Wednesday of September 1848, to meet at Philadelphia~
Geolog ical So cietists }	In the Boston Journal of the 31th ult: we have a detail of the proceedings during the five days, which are very interesting to the enquiring philosopher An interesting paper was read by Mr. E.G. Squier, entitled, " <u>Observations on the Fossils, Minerals, organic Remains &amp;c. found in the Mounds of the West</u> ". Mr Squiers combats the ideas of the mounds being <u>natural formations</u> , & brings incontrovertible proof of their artificial structure.
Details of pro ceedings }	It is said that the 1 <sup>st</sup> Book published by the <u>Smithsonian Institution</u> will be a work on American Archeology a narrative of researches and discoveries in the mounds of the West, made by E.G. Squier & Dr. E.H Davis of Ohio; the work to be accompanied by drawings of the relics, surveys of the fortification &c &c. It is the opinion of scientific men, that this Vol contains more information on the subject of the race of people once inhabiting this continent, then all the volumes that have been published.
Mounds of the West }	
New work prom ised }	

October 4      During the sitting of the Associates President Everett of the Cambridge University, communicated to them a letter from Mr. Bond of the Cambridge Observatory, containing proofs of the excellence of the Telescope in that observatory. Mr Bond says, in his letter (Sept. 22, 1847) “the great Nebula in Orion has yielded to the power of our incomparable Telescope. The Telescope was set upon the Trapezium in the great Nebula of Orion under a power of 200; the 5<sup>th</sup> star was immediately conspicuous; but our attention was directly absorbed with the splendid undulations made in its immediate neighborhood. This part of the nebula was resolved into bright points of light, The number of the stars was too great to attempt counting them; many were however readily located and mapped The double character of the brightest star of the Trapezium was readily recognized with a power of 600—This is [ ] 6<sup>th</sup> Star; and certain of the stars composing the Nebula were seen as double stars under this power.”

Mr. Bonds letter on the Cambridge Telescope      {

Nebula of Orion made a test      {

And resolved into stars      {

If this Telescope has thus resolved the Nebula of Orion, its power must excel that of Herchel’s Reflector, or Lord Rosse’s three feet mirrors, which Mr Bond says, “gave not” the slightest trace of resolvability.”

The Nebulan Hypothesis of the Elder Herchel, supposes that nebulous masses exist, which are in process of combination into systems, while others are real clusters of stars; but the changes which the milky nebulosity in Orion, has [ ] one, second to him, to indicate that it is not composed of stars. The Hypothesis is now [ ] by some, astronomers & the nebula supposed to be stellar.

October 5  
 Capture of the Mexican capitol by Gen. Scott

Tuesday m. fair, wind N.E. and day clear. wind PM. SW  
 Accounts from Mexico say the armistice between Scott and Santa Anna ended on the eighth, and that after severe fighting the former entered the city of Mexico on the 16<sup>th</sup>, inst. and the Mexicans retired to Guadalup  
 If the Mexicans are determined on further resistance, will it not be difficult for Scott to find subsistence for his army in so interior a position? When an invading army acts on a long line of operation, it may be cut off from its base by an enemy in the rear. Aware of this Scott will be cautious of further advances into the interior, until he is reinforced and assured of supplies for his troops and with reinforcements, should he attempt to operate by detachments eccentrically, he may be defeated in detail. The guerilla system, adopted by the Mexicans, promises success if general actions be avoided, and the Petite Guerre be vigorously prosecuted. To conquer & hold the country vit armis will require an army of, at least, 50,000 men, spread over the country, protected by fortified works But a country of 6 or 7 millions of people, provided with Arms and munitions of war, are not be conquered by ordinary means.

Strategic considerations

6  
 Wednesday. M fair, wind N.E.  
 the day fair, but somewhat breezy and the wind veered from NE through the eastern semicircled to the SW.  
 Similar variation of the wind have occurred, on several prior days, indicating a variable state of atmospheric pressure.

- October 7 Thursday M. cloudy  
wind N. the day continued  
cloudy, and wind [ ] to S & W  
thence to N.E. The changes of this  
day appear to be in an opposite di  
rection to those of yesterday.
- 8 Friday. M. cloudy wind  
N.E., rain about noon; the  
day continued cloudy with  
some rain, and an afternoon wind  
at N.E.
- Letter from my friends } Received a Letter from my con  
nexions at Vergennes of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
inst. A sort of Influenza has  
prevailed at Vergennes for some time  
which has affected many, among  
whom were Arthur & little Charles  
The former made a tour of three  
days to the Fair at Saratoga, taking  
the route through Lake George and  
Glens Falls village- says he was  
well paid. The route from Ticonde  
roga to Glens falls, passes over much  
interesting ground rendered memorable  
in military history; but he needed  
me as a guide to the places/spots most  
interesting, especially in the war of  
1755, now almost lost to the pre  
sent generation.
- 9 Saturday. m. cloudy, but fair  
before noon, and a N.W. wind of  
considerable briskness prevailed;  
the day continued fair.
- 10 Sunday M. fair, wind N.W.  
and brisk; the day clear, and  
air cool. Many of the deciduous  
trees now show the fall hue, yel  
low and red- a curious phenomena  
said not to exist in all parts of  
the temperate zones.

Octr 11      Monday M. fair, wind S.W. and  
 day generally clear  
 The war; } From the latest accounts from Mexi  
 capture } co it appears that Scotts and Santa  
 of Mexico } Anna's forces have had a series of  
                   hard fighting from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>  
                   ult. since the termination of the Ar  
                   mistice and great loss of lives has  
                   been sustained on both sides. The att  
                   acks on the city of Mexico were  
                   made both by bombardment & desper  
                   at assaults. But as yet we have no  
                   official reports from either army  
 Reflec } The Mexicans, it is said, fought with  
 tions } resolution, but were compelled to re  
           tire before the vandalic chivalry of  
           our troops. What will be the result of  
           the capture of the city of Mexico we  
           have yet to learn; but the war will  
           probably continue for some time  
           and perhaps the Mexicans will at length  
           learn to beat our invading troops who fight for  
           conquest regardless of moral principles  
           and the rights of man.  
           By the discerning & candid part of  
           community, the war is viewed with  
           detestation; but so long as a majority  
           of the people can be deluded by dema  
           gogues whose moral principles are no check to injustice, the  
           war may be popular. When however,  
           loans can no longer be obtained &  
           direct taxes shall be resorted to, the  
           people as Mr. Jefferson said in another  
           case, "will be set to rights." (See his let  
           ter to James T. Callender Oct. 6, 1799)  
 The ob } The designs of the war have been obvi  
 jects of } ous from the moment Mr Polk or  
 the war } dered Gen. Taylor to advance from the  
 obvious } Neuces to the Rio Grand; but if any war so  
           blind as not to have seen them at that  
           time, the terms of peace ~~he has~~ now offered  
           the Mexicans, though Mr Trist will open  
           the eyes of the blindest                      Delinda

Octr 11 Mr Polks stand ard de scribed	<p>“<u>Delinda est Carthago</u>” is inscribed on Mr Polk’s Standard and <u>the Rifle and Bowie knife</u> stand out in bold relief. Among its ar morials; on the reverse side a <u>Black man in Chains</u>, pleading for mercy from his ruthless master, and underneath, the motto <u>No Wilmot Proviso</u>”.</p> <p>This standard of American Republicanism once firmly planted in all parts of Mexico, will it in sure the <u>rights</u> of the people?</p>
Cuba the next object	<p><u>Cuba</u> will next receive the <u>fater nal hug</u>. Already is she marked for prey by our Southern brethren and Northern democrats; and “<u>an nexation</u>” and “<u>an army of observation</u> will soon complete the work of <u>love</u>.”</p>
The Sa bel Gov ernment of Hayti	<p>The sable government of <u>Hayti</u> must also come under our <u>Sur veillance</u> A nation of free blacks in our vicinity, is incompatible with <u>enlightened republicanism</u>. The in habitants may furnish <u>convenient</u> supplies for the new and old slave state of our Union.</p>
Other W. Indian Islands	<p>The British and French Islands, protected by, their present owners, may remain without our grasp for a time, but those of Spain will fall an easy prey to our republican strides. Let the nations of Europe look to their</p>
Warnings to Europe	<p>interests before too late~</p> <p>These predictions lay no claim to prophetic aid: they are plain re sults of the principles held out to the people by their deceptive rulers, who feel no [ ] from moral</p>
Fate of corrupt ambi tion	<p>laws. But let it be remembered, that though we, like the Romans, may extend our conquests to unknown limits, we shall at length, like them, [ ] to naught- a corrupt people cannot escape the fate that awaits, corrupt ambition.</p>

Octr 12      Tuesday M. fair, but soon cloudy  
and wind SW air cool; the  
day continued [     ] and  
a sprinkling of rain fell. In  
the evening the rain increased

13      Wednesday. M. Cloudy wind  
W. & the day fair

Agricul }  
tural    }  
meeting }  
at North }  
ampton }

Re }  
marks }  
on their }  
utility }

Meeting of our Agricultural  
Society at Northampton,  
where an address is to be de  
livered. These meetings are  
now common in the Northern  
States, and are generally nu  
merously attended. Exhibition  
of annuals and domestic manufacture  
are made, and social intercourse  
promoted & on the whole, I believe  
beneficial. The attempts that have  
been made to reduce agriculture  
to a system has, in a degree  
been successful. But it is hardly  
to be expected that our farmers  
will become extensively acquainted  
with the chemical principles on  
which agriculture is founded.  
The greatest benefits derived from these  
meetings will be the increase  
of manures and their application  
to the different kinds, to the na  
ture of the soils; and also im  
provements in the breeds of cattle  
of the bovine kinds; and here  
experiments will be found more  
convincing than theoretical rules.  
In the fabrication of domestic  
articles an emulation will be cre  
ated, which, if confined to the use  
ful will be beneficial. Since  
men will have their holy days, let these  
meetings be their sport.



Octr 14	<u>Thursday.</u> M fair, wind NW and variable; day continued fair, but with scattering, clouds and the air cold. Most of our street maples display the yellow of Au tumn. One of these trees in front of and about 20 feet east of my house, still retains its dark green hue, as if no frost had occurred Is this owing to position or to some property differing from the others in the same range? or group Whether this change of color, as explained by Professor Hitchcock, in his Geological Report, That it proceeds from an <u>increased oxygenation</u> of the coloring matter of the leaves, be correct I am not able to determine: Anolo gous cases, he thinks, are found in the chemical laboratory, and instances the <u>Chamelear Mineral</u> But whatever be the cause of this chemical change, it is clear that the freezing of the leaf is the first step in the process; the death and fall of the leaf following, while the tree retains its vegetable life.
Fall hue of the trees	
Suppos ed Course	
15	<u>Friday</u> M. fair, wind S.W. and day partially cloudy.
16	<u>Saturday.</u> M. fair, wind W. During the day the wind was variable from W. to E. and the sky very clear
17	<u>Sunday.</u> M. fair, wind S.W., day fair but some what hazy.
18	<u>Monday.</u> Morn foggy, wind S.W. & some thin clouds. The afternoon fair clear and considerable breeze.

Octr 18	No official accounts of Gen. Scotts late battle and operations at the City of Mexico, have been laid before the public.
No of ficials from Gen Scott	For this delay we cannot account but by supposing an interruption of the Generals communication with Vera Cruz by the Mexican Guerillas. Reinforcements it is said, are on the march from that place to join Gen. Scott at the City of Mexico. This reinforcement may enable the General to hold his position; but will his line of operation to Vera Cruz be safe from the attacks of the guerillas? In an invasion of a hostile country the task of supplying provisions is sometimes difficult, especially when the enemy are determined on resistance. Witness Bonapart's invasion of Russia and his diastorous retreat. If the Mexicans act with vigor in cutting off Scott's supplies, he may find it difficult to maintain his position in the interior. The difficulty of supplying armies in and invasion of an extensive country is not always considered by commanders who think tactical maneuvers & fighting battles the chief business.
Remarks on his present position	
Gen Burgoyne on supplying armies	Remarking upon his invasion of the State of New York in 1777, General Burgoyne said. "How zealously [ ] a General in such an undertaking as mine, may be served by the chiefs of departments, for one hour he can find to contemplate <u>how to fight his army</u> , he must allot <u>twenty</u> to contrive <u>how to feed it</u> ."
19	Tuesday m. cloudy wind SW. the day continued cloudy, with moderate air.

Octr 20      Wednesday. M. fair, wind N.E.:  
the day fine and pleasant.

Headleys }  
Wash }  
ington }  
& his }  
Generals }

My Son sends me "Washington and his Generals" by Headley, in 2. Vols. with 16 portraits, a work that attracts much attention, particularly from the young, who are not extensively acquainted with the war of the Revolution. Mr Headly holds a lively pen and portrays military contest in an attractive manner, but in some instances inaccurately. His description of Battles are too flowery, and dramatic and poetical for the scientific reader.

Char }  
acter of }  
the work }

In his account of the battle of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1777, at Bemus heights, Mr. Headly has given full play to his fancy, and imported but little information in relation to the real facts. The whole seems to be a bloated strain to show the superiority prowess of raw militia over disciplined troops: All that can be learned ~~from it~~ is that the Americans fought bravely, but it happens that but a small portion of them were militia. Excepting the contest on Freemans field ~~other~~ some parts of the battle are wholly omitted; and the part General Frazer took on the battle up on the heights, on the extreme right of Burgoyne entirely ~~is~~ unnoticed. This 2d battle, the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, is much of the same character. In both Mr Headly speaks of Gen. Gates in degrading terms, and attributes to General Arnold all the good conduct of our troops, while it is known that this General had little or no shame in the first battle. In other parts of the work I notice errors which should have escaped his pen, and which a more careful and patient investigation would have prevented.

Octr 21      Thursday. M. fair, wind W. and day  
 fair and pleasant.  
 Our annual election of State  
 The ap } officers is now approaching and  
 proach } of course all the arts of demagogues  
 ing Election } are put in motion to mislead  
                  the people. An employed officer of  
                  our army in Mexico, noticed for his  
                  ambition for place, is brought to  
                  the test, instead of its tried patri  
                  ot against whom not an item of  
                  complaint can be conquered up.  
 Re } Under the hope that the tinsel show  
 marks } of war will take with the young  
          and inconsiderate, the uneasy party  
          flatter themselves they shall exercise  
          their votes at the ballot box. Vain  
          hope! The people of Massachusetts,  
          we trust, are not to be thus hoodwinked  
          they dearly see the wickedness of the  
          war, and the unconstitutional man  
          ner in which it was commenced  
          by Mr Polk, and look to Congress  
          to check his audacity. His usurpa  
          tion of power, we believe, will end  
          with his four years as he be suffered  
          to return to his former obscurity.  
 22      Friday. M. cloudy with some rain  
          wind N.W. PM. fair; at night cloudy  
 New } My esteemed Nephew, Dr. Stephen W.  
 work } Williams, presents me his work just  
          from the press, entitled "The Genealogy  
          and History of the ~~Williams~~ family  
          of Williams in America" including  
          elegant portraits. 1 Vol. pp. 424.  
          The History of a single family may  
          at first appear of limited public in  
          terest, and as commending the attention  
          of but a few readers. But the name  
          of Williams is widely extended over every  
          part of the United States as well as in

- Octr  
22 in England, that its history embraces much of that of the two countries; and no one I think can peruse this work without meeting with matter of general interest. Dr Williams has evinced great assiduity and extensive research, in the collection of matter for the work, and deserves not only the thanks of the family but of the public generally.
- Williams family }  
23 Saturday M fair, wind NW, and day fair.  
By the arrival of the steam ship Cambria at Boston, intelligence is received of the progress of the Asiatic Cholera in the north of Europe. Its course is similar to that which it took in its first visit, from east, to the west of Europe. Probably it will again cross the atlantic and visit the United States, in which case we shall hardly need a war to depopulate the country~
- Cholera in Europe }  
24 Sunday. M. cloudy, wind N.; and day cloudy with some rain. P.M. air cold. We still anticipate a series of pleasant days before dreary winter sets in
- 25 Monday. M. cloudy, wind SW. most of the day fair with strong SW wind, which stripped our maples of most of their yellow dress. A priore who could conceive that these trees retained their living principle and would regain put forth their foliage in the spring season, and what stronger proof do we find of an intelligent over arching course, beyond our comprehension? In short, the whole system of nature tends to the same conclusion; and man is but a link in the great chain of being

- Octr 26 Tuesday. M fair, wind N.W. and fair day; In the evening the air was uncommonly cold for the season
- 27 Wednesday M. fair, wind NE and water in vessels covered with ice. The day continued fair and the air rather cold; and wind shifted to S.W.
- 28 Thursday. M. fair, wind W & NW and cold air; the day clear & cool and the evening pretty [ ] so
- Headley's Generals } Headleys American Generals  
At page 27 I have briefly noticed this work and given my views of its character, and on a thorough perusal, I find no reasons for varying my opinion. To those who are well acquainted with the war, from recollection, or from the sober histories of Gorden, Ramsay and Marshall little that is new will be found ~~new~~ in Mr Headly's work. True indeed, his description of battles are more chivorous than in the authors named; but less satisfactory to the military reader, who analyses the movements by fixed principles of war.
- Chivalrous } But it seems the design of the Author was quite different. In his preface he says, "In all histories of that event, movements and results are given rather than scenes; and hence, while the plan and progress are clearly developed, the heroic character and thrilling interest of the struggle are in a great measure lost. It thus necessarily becomes a matter of business, and the enthusiasm and fervor which characterized it, and indeed were the most remarkable facts of all, do not have their due prominence. It
- Plan of his work }

Octr  
28

Scene  
ry &  
spirit }

“It is a little strange that a war embracing more of the romantic and heroic of any that ever transpired should appear on record so tame and business like. But in the effort to render to every regiment and company its due honor, and to give an exact description of the manner in which every battle is fought, the spirit is necessarily lost sight of; yet the complete historian feels under obligation to do this. My plan does not confine me to such details; and hence while I have endeavored to present a correct and accurate description of every battle field. I have often sunk minor movements and individual actions, in order to prevent confusion. In writing accounts of a campaign or battle, for a military man, one needs to look on it from a different point of view than he would in writing for the general reader.”

Speci  
men  
of his  
descript  
tions }

Here we have the plan of Mr Headly’s work, and it must be acknowledged that he has pretty closely adhered to it. The scenery is the important parts of the battles. Thus in Gates first battle at Bemus heights “Nought broke the silence that wrapped the heights, save the hurried orders as regiment of regiment wheeled into its place; while the sun shone sweetly down, on the springing grass, gently waving in the mild September breeze- Thus slept that quiet clearing on the top of the hills, with the lazy shadows of the trees stretching across its bosom—all around it lay that slumbering volcano, soon to move into the midst

Bemus  
heights }

- Octr 28      And make it tremble as if on the grasp of an earthquake.” There is no lack of scenery for the most poetical taste. Again in the attack on Stoney point by Gen. Wayne, “It was now twilight; and the mild summer evening with its cooling breeze stole over the water- the stars came out one by one on the sky and the tranquil river flowed by in majestic silence, and all was sweet and peaceful. While nature was then reposing in beauty around him, Wayne, with his strong soul wrought up to the task before him, stood in the gathering shades of evening, and gazed long and anxiously in the direction of the fort.”
- Strong point } I might here add Mr Headleys favorite expressions, leveled bayonets, stirring music from the drum, fife & bugle, the measured tread of the battalions & their charging shouts accompanying the charges, amidst showers of cannon and musket shot.
- Favorite expressions } The night scene in the battle between Gates & Cornwallis 1780, furnishes Mr Headly a fertile source for the display of his romantic pen. The armies met “the midnight was suddenly illuminated by flashes of musketry, and in their transient light as far as the eye could see, the fields were filled with marching columns and squadrons of Cavalry. Flash followed flash in quick succession and those two armies looked like huge black monsters in the gloom spitting fire from their mouths on each other.”
- Battle near Camden } The order of battle is next sketched Gates in three columns! “Thus the two armies stood when warm August



Oct morning broke over the scene.  
 28 A death like calm rested on the  
 same not a breath of air was  
 Night } abroad, the leaves hung motion  
 scene } less on their stems while a  
 summer haze veiled the sky and  
 gave the sun a blood shot, appear  
 ance, as it rolled into view.”  
 The battle again commenced. “In  
 for the } a moment the field was in an  
 [ ] & } uproar—the artillery on both  
 [ ] } sides began to play furiously, while  
 from swamp to swamp it was  
 one flash and peal of musketry as  
 the two armies advanced on each  
 other. The smoke of battle would  
 not rise in the dull air, but set  
 tled down on the field, and fold  
 ed heavily on the contending col  
 umn.”  
 Here is no lack of spirit nor scene  
ry. One almost hears the roar of  
 the artillery, and the “strains of  
martial music struggling up through  
 the sulphurous cloud.” See page 36  
 29 Friday. M. fair, wind SW and  
 last night very freezing; the day  
 fair  
 accounts } We have accounts in the papers  
 from } of the battles at the city of Mexico  
 Mexico } with lists of the killed and wounded  
 officers, but nothing official from Gen  
 Scott. The lists of officers are great  
 from which we may infer that the  
 loss of rank & file is so also. Among the  
 killed we notice the name of Col. Ransome  
 of Vermont, commander of one of the new  
 regiments. Most of the officers of these  
 corps left their homes under the chival  
 rous notion- that they should recap mili  
 tary glory. What a bubble! They are gener  
 ally young men who have been charmed  
 by the show of War. [ ] [ ]!

Oct 30		<u>Saturday</u> M. fair, wind N.W., followed by a fair day; the air somewhat moderated
No of ficial from Scott	}	The past week has brought us no of ficials from General Soctt. Does Mr Polk and his cabnet think it wise to keep them behind the curtain until Con gress sits?—then to feel the public pulse and see how it beats in regard to more supplies of men and money!
		<u>Delinda est Carthago</u> is now the motto of democracy; and the men of property must defray the cost.
31		<u>Sunday</u> . M. cloudy, wind NW but the sun out before noon, followed by a clear day, Wind changed to SW in PM very pleasant.
<u>November</u>		
1		<u>Monday</u> . M. foggy, wind W; Sun out about noon, but most of the day cloudy.
Fatal Rail road accidents	}	We hear of a sad accident on the new rail road near Arthur That occurred last An Engine and a number of cars, heavy loaded with iron, passing a new bridge over millers river, the bridge crushed with the weight and 5 men were killed and 8 or 9 wounded in the fall.
Bridg es on Rail Road not al way safe		When rail roads are carried through narrow vallies of winding streams many bridges are necessary to avoid short turns, and preserve direct lines; and this circumstance is unfavorable to such locations. In all cases of bridges, on real roads, they should be built in the stronest manner and of durable materials. Bridges are the weak parts of rail roads & become defective before we are aware of it, & fatal disaster are the consequence

Novr 2  
 Old hunt ing scenes } Tuesday m. foggy, wind N.;  
 the day ~~continued fair~~ fair and pleasant  
 air~ In my young days such  
 weather invited to hunting excursions  
 and with a practiced dog, we  
 brought home packs of squirrels &  
 partridges & other game. If the  
 sport was inviting, it was attended  
 with something repulsive to the  
 informed mind, --the death of inno  
cent animals. In a more advanced  
 age, I must confess, that such de  
 struction of life ~~ean~~ but ill deserved  
 the name of sport. In a wild coun  
 try where ferocious animals are  
 found preying on the domestic herds  
 the hunter may be said to act on the  
defensive, and his skill may be com  
 mendable. But true it is, these ani  
 mals follow the dictates of nature,  
 and so do we in destroying them.  
 but humanity requires that in sending  
 the stroke of death, we should do it with as  
 little suffering as possible.  
 No brute animal is in fault for  
 the destructive disposition it possesses:  
 and when those who are furnished  
 with carnivorous teeth & claws, seize on their  
 prey, they but follow the dictates of na  
 ture. Man in a rude state is feeble  
 in a contest with ferocious animals,  
 but by his arts & contrivances, he becomes  
 their superior; and the assaults of the lion  
 the tiger & huge elephant, are repelled  
 by the use of the weapons furnished by  
 steel, gun powder and other materials  
 which science has brought to his aid.

Re marks on }  
 Cruel ty to ani mals to be avoid ed }  
 3 Wednesday M fair, wind N.W. and  
 the clear & very pleasant throughout.

Novr 4      Thursday. m. fair, wind NW and warm air; the day continued fine to the close

Headleys } Headleys American Generals, continu  
Generals } ed from page 33.  
continued } We might continue quotation from the author's scenery, with which he embellishes his battles, to the extent of partial imagination. But in his description of ground and order of battle, we sometimes find him inaccurate, and indeed confused. Any one acquainted with the battle fields and the movements at Bemis's height on 19<sup>th</sup> of September & the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1777, will at once see his want of precision

Battle } The movements of Morgan & Dearborn in the first battle are incorrectly given, and seem to be confounded with those of the second; and the triumphant stride of Col. Cilley upon the captured field piece, belongs to the latter. "At noon the firing commenced. Morgan with his "light hore" and Major Dearborn with his light infantry rushed against the Canadians & Indians on the hills and routed them"~ This first attack was not made on the Canadians and Indians who were in Frazer's column, on the hills, but on the left flank guard of Burgoyne's column about 70 rods eastward of Freeman field.

Corrected }  
details }  
Morgans } On the arrival of Burgoyne's column in the ravine of the field Morgan made a second attack on the British then formed in line in the wood in [ ] the field and was driven back with some loss. Burgoyne immediately advanced through the woods with 2 pairs of artillery & 3 regiments of infantry & formed a line of the north margin of the open field: after a short halt Burgoyne ordered the

Novr  
4

Move  
ments  
on Free  
man's  
field

twenty first and sixty second regiments composing the right of his line, to advance to the south margin of the field with two pieces of artillery, where they were met by Major Hill, with an advance [ ] of 300 men, and the firing commenced on the field, but was of short duration. about 3 oclock PM the auction was renewed by several regiments ordered forward by Gen. Gates. The Americans being reinforced with several other regiments, the action became General and continued until night.

Mr Headley's account of the battle on Freeman's field after Gates' reinforcements came up, is not very wide from the truth. But in the whole battle of the day we hear nothing of the attack on Gen Frazer, posted on the heights to the westward of Freeman's field where the action continued till after night set in. But the part awarded to General

Mistate  
ments  
of Arnolds  
move  
ments

Arnold must be entirely incorrect if any reliance be [ ] on Adjutant General Wilkinson & other officers who shared in the battle. But Mr Headly give no credit to General Wilkinson, nor to others who coincide with him Had the author given a precise description of the advance of Burgoyne's columns from his camp at Swords house to Freemans field, on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, he would have avoided the embarrassments which perplex his readers, who are unfamiliar with ~~strangers to~~ the ground & the route of the columns.

2d  
Battle  
Octr 7<sup>th</sup>

In the 2d battle (7<sup>th</sup> of October) Mr Headleys greatest error is, in confounding Arnolds attack on Lord Balcarres work, south of Freeman's field, and that on the work of Breyman on the extreme right of the British, about 1/3 of a mile north of the former. It is however in correct when he says the Americans all returned to Gates camp at the close of the day. Part of Leonards Brigade, which stormed Breyman's work, held possession of it during the night.

Novr 5	<u>Friday.</u> m. fair, wind W day clear & pleasant as summer
The Massa chusetts Regiment in Mex ico	accounts from Mexico frequently men tion the disorderly conduct of General Cushings Massachusetts Regiment. The men are represented as muton ous, refractory, and every way disor derly. When the regiment was [    ] enlistment, I foresaw that this would be the character it would exhibit in the field. The men, in general, consist of that part of society, which knows no restraint, and filled with the wild notions of <u>liberty and equality</u> , and allowed the choise of their officers, they have no idea
Muton ous & disorder ly	of the subordination requisite in a reg ular army. This sort of men, mixed with those of wild disciplined troops of the regular corps, may be reduced to order, but, when forming <u>distinct corps</u> , can fusion and disorder reign triumphant; and if, <u>per chance</u> , their officers are found to possess the requisite qualities, they are no more regarded by the men, than use less lumber. Such men if they can be fill ed with a <u>spirit of chivalry</u> , may fight a battle, but in camp they are liable to mutiny and every species of disorder, which a wild spirit generates. By this time the officers of the regiment may have
Lesson 1. offi cers	learned that something besides ferocity is essential to constitute the soldier, and that military service, in the field is not the pastime they had anticipated. The character of the regiment might de grade that of Massachusetts, were it not known, that the men were enlisted from the [    ] of our cities, always ready for anarchy & spoil.
6	<u>Saturday.</u> m. fair, wind N.W.; the day fair with scattering clouds, and the air cooler than we have had a few days past.

Novr.  
7      Sunday. M. fair, wind N; day  
fair & cloudy alternately & air cool  
Col Ransom who fell in one  
of the late battles near the city of Mexi  
co, if I am rightly informed, was  
from Vermont; an inhabitant of  
Norwich, and President of the Milita  
ry Institution in that state, first estab  
lished by Capt. Partridge. He is gen  
tleman having imbibed a taste for mili  
tary science, left home and friends to  
seek glory in the fields of Mexico, not  
however in defense of his country, but  
for the conquest of territory from a  
neighboring republic contending for her  
rights and national existence. But his  
race has been short; the bubble of  
military glory has burst, and his  
bones will rest in obscurity unnoticed  
by historians of after times. Did  
the unfortunate man look at the  
justice of the war when he accepted  
his appointment, or recur to the prin  
ciples which activated our people at the  
commencement of our revolution? We  
fear not. Prompted by false notions  
of military prowess, he hazarded his life  
in a course, which every patriot and  
reflecting man, condemns as unjust, and  
unnecessary. His lamentable fate ought  
to be a lesson to others who seek renown  
at the canon mouth, regardless of the  
justice of the cause, which calls them to  
the field. In a defensive war, military  
service is deemed a duty, and the mor  
tally wounded here, may console himself  
in reflecting that his motives were  
pure, and his services rendered, called  
for by his country. But in an offen  
sive one for conquest, the aspirant for  
fame, finds no consolation in reflecting  
on their motives which led him to the bloody  
combat, and the fatal wound adds  
poignancy to his inconsiderate rashness  
to obtain a bubble.

Col.  
Ran  
som }

His  
fall in Mex  
ico }

Reflec  
tions }

Defen  
sive &  
offen  
sive  
wars }

Novr 8	<u>Monday</u> . M. cloudy, wind SW; day continued cloudy.
Elec. tion day }	This day our Constitution calls us to the polls to elect our Gover nor Lt. Governor Senators and representatives for the ensuing year; and it is a lamentable fact, that a few restless men are able to keep up a delusion among a portion of the people, which renders it ne cessary for the steady part of the community to attend the polls to counteract the mischief of their plans, and designs. Many of the dupes of these leaders are honest, and suppose these fellows pursuing a correct course, but will not examine for themselves
Influ ence of dema gogues }	They take up their notions from the democratic papers & and then continue their course from year to year, without knowing that they are indebted to their op ponents for the severity of their rights and liberty. Should they be successful at the ballot-boxes, a few years of democratic misrule of the state government, would cure their [    ] and bring them back to their inter est and rational principles. But so long as they are a <u>minority</u> they will cling to their leaders, and re main blind to their utopian scheme
in blind ing the people }	
The suc cess of the party would at length arm the frenzy }	
Frimness of the Ma jority of the state }	Fortunately for the common wealth the majority of the people have hither to been able to stem the current of political corruption [    ] out by its demagogues; and we trust the veto of the day will have and exercise on on the side of rational government.



Novr 8	Votes cast in this town to day.	
Town Votes }	George N. Briggs, for Governor	199
	John Reed, for Lt Governor	<hr/>
	Charles Devens Senator	171
	Jonathan Blake Do.	196
	Samuel Willard Jr Representative	177
	<u>Democratic ticket</u>	
	Caleb Cushing, for Governor	151
	Henry Cushman, Lt. Governor	<hr/>
	Charles Osgood Senator	151
	Whiting Griswold Do	153
Liber ty tick et }	Horrace Williams Representative	162
	Another ticket, named the <u>liberty ticket</u>	
Its tenden cy evil }	is supported by a few claiming to act in opposition to slavery. This party entertain no expectation of success, but their object evidently is to prevent an election of Governor & Lt Governor by either of the other parties; they claim to be opposed to democracy, but why they separate from the Whig party, who are in all respects as much opposed to slavery as themselves, is to me inexplicable. A more appropriate name for their ticket would be that of <u>insanity</u> , particularly <u>at this time</u> when united opposition to the Mexican war is the duty of all good men. Suppose Mr Sewall to {—} {—} should {—} be elected what possible constitutional course could he pursue against slavery that Gov Briggs would oppose? This the <u>liberty party</u> well knew, and their persistence in their course excites [ ] suspicions of the purity of [ ] [ ] and it to be regretted that men hitherto held respectable should be found in the party.	

Novr  
9

Tuesday. M. foggy, wind W;  
last night some rain; the day  
partially cloudy.

Ano  
ther  
Rail  
road  
acci  
dent

The Springfield daily Repub  
lican of Monday, gives a sad  
account of an accident on the Boston  
and Worcester Rail road, about two  
from the former city, by which 6 men  
were killed & 4 or 5 wounded. At  
the place where the accident oc  
curred was a curve where re  
pairs had been making, though  
imperfectly, and the train who  
threw off the rails while un  
der a speed of about 30 miles per  
hour. Here after accidents are  
mentioned in the same paper, on  
other rail roads.

Re  
marks

The frequent accidents occurring on  
these roads, call for public consid  
eration. Heavy trains in motion  
at the rate of 30, or even 20 miles, an  
hour, must always be liable to de  
structive accidents; and in passing  
curves especially of short radii  
The centrifugal force inclining the  
train to follow the tangent of the  
curve, is often too strong to be  
resisted. A speed of 20 miles an  
hour, as is great, perhaps greater  
than, any business requires: and  
I think a speed less than that, will  
ultimately be adopted as safer, as  
well as sufficient for all the pur  
poses of transportation.

Too great  
speed  
attempt  
ed

But under the present rage for im  
provement, men forget that the  
laws of nature are unchangeable,  
and prescribe limits, beyond, which  
they cannot go. Even on a right lined  
road the [ ] now urged, are un  
safe; for with the heavy boards now  
needed

Novr  
9

heaped upon cars, and the prodigious force required to drag them, something will give way and distraction will ensue. Let us then remember that we walk ing animals and cannot fly with out wings and feathers.

Dan  
ger of  
single  
tracts }

The present mode of constructing rail roads in single tracts will always be liable to fatal accidents from collisions under the most careful regulations and the present zeal for constructing them on routes which will not command ~~ex~~ sive business, is ill placed. We now hear of projects for constructing them

Project  
of a R.  
Road  
to Troy }

over and through mountains, even rivers and deep vallies, where they can accomoda only a few towns; and millions of dollars are considered but as small sums. Experience will teach us that none but those on routes between great Marts can be maintained. The idea of constructing them for the accommodation of a few interior towns is extremely unwise

A fertile  
scheme }

Suppose 10 towns along a rail road, of 6 miles in each, should project a road 120000 dollars would be required for each; the whole 10 towns would require 1,200,000 dollars What 10 towns in the interior, can defray this cost! And “if mountains are to be tunneled and many large bridges constructed, a large sum must be added.

Will  
probably  
prove  
[     ] }

The people of the western town in our county are awake to a rail road from South Deerfield to Troy. Two millions of dollars expended on the route would show but a beginning of the road. The project is well on the extreme, and [     ] prove an [     ].

Novr 10      Wednesday. M fair, wind S.W.  
and the day generally fair  
until its close when it became  
cloudy.

Result  
of the  
Election }      From the Spring field & Boston  
papers, it appears that George N.  
Briggs is re elected by the peo  
ple, that no Soco-Senators  
are chose, and that the house of  
representatives is about the  
same as last year. This result  
is auspicious to the Liberty of the  
state, and Massachusetts is  
again freed from the misrule  
and contamination of Jacobin  
democracy; yet it is be lamet  
ed that so large a portion of the  
state is under that influence.

Gov. }  
Briggs }  
re elect  
ed }      General Cushing may now con  
tinue to seek glory in Mexico, by  
the conquest of slave territory. Does  
his acceptation of the democratic  
nomination for Governor of Massachusetts  
indicate a nostalgic diath  
isis, to be relieved from his mili  
tary employment in Mexico, to  
repose in services less hazardous;  
and had he this in view when  
he accepted the command of his  
regiment of patriots? Be  
this as it may, the flippant  
General's popularity will not be  
fixed until he has suffered the smell  
of gun power in storming a Mexican  
battery and cut down some  
hundreds of Mexicans fighting for  
their rights and national existence.

Genl }  
Cush }  
ing left }  
to pur }  
sue mili }  
tary }  
glory }  
in Mex }  
ico }      His pop  
ularity }  
unfixed }

Novr  
10  
Result  
of the  
election  
auspice  
ous

But though the result of the election has been auspicious, the reflecting patriot will perceive that the diffusion of political delusion in the state indicates a diseased diathesis that will ultimately prostrate republican liberty, at the feet of some bold despot, unless public virtue is able to check our present downward course. That a thinking man should be found in the state in favor of the present unjust war, is inexplicable. Yet no less than thousand voters are found in our state, ready to support a war with a neighboring nation, for the base purpose of conquest~

but  
omin  
ous of  
future  
evil

11

Thursday. M. cloudy, wind W, the day became fair, with many floating clouds.

Letter  
from  
S. How  
ard,  
Albany

His  
plan  
to pre  
serve the  
old house

Mr Sanford Howard, one of the Editors of the Albany Cultivator writes me proposing a plan to preserving the old Indian relic, or house, in this village, owned by Henry K. Hoyt. He proposes to procure the house or homelot on which it stands, by a subscription. I have this day replied to his letter expressing my views upon the subject. I should be glad to preserve the building, but doubt whether money could be raised for that purpose. It often happens that people are zealous to carry out plans, but when money is called for to carry them into effect their zeal dissipates & the plan fails. Mr

Novr  
 11  
 His  
 Agri  
 cultur  
 al in  
 genius }

Howard also put several que-  
 ries to me in relation to our inter-  
 val land and its cultivation to  
 which I postponed answers for  
 a want of data. He lately visited  
 our town, and meadow, and was  
 pleased with apparent fertility of  
 the latter. A communication  
 to the Cultivator, in the subject  
 might be useful, but I feel an  
 aversion to writing for the press.  
 Mr Howard's plan for preserv-  
 ing the old house, is laudable, and  
 indicates a generous mind.

12  
 Election  
 reports  
 still fa-  
 vorable }

The  
 liberty  
 arty }

Friday M. cloudy, wind W.  
 & the day generally fair  
 The reports of the election, as pub-  
 lished in the papers, still con-  
 tinue favorable, and Governor  
 Briggs is said to be reelected,  
 by a majority, over all, if not  
 far from 2000. Inaccuracies are  
 commonly found in these loose  
 returns, but generally they  
 are not far from the truth  
 In looking over their reports,  
 nothing is mere vexation than  
 to see a party, calling themselves  
 a Liberty party still persisting  
 in obstructing the course a Sal-  
 utory government, in this state.  
 I will not say they are dishonest  
 but I think it may be said  
 they are far from being wise men:  
 & a little reflection would teach them the  
 danger of their course.

The

- Novr  
12
- Re  
marks  
on
- Their  
error
- 13
- Forth  
coming  
work  
on the  
western  
mounds
- The existence of a democratic  
a party, however inexplicable, is not  
more so than ~~those~~ that if this  
party; and the obvious pernicious  
tendency of this party is such, as  
to excite the suspicion of honorable  
men, as to the purity of their de  
signs. We would not rashly con  
demn them, but we must say that it  
is not in our power to conceive of  
~~them any excuse for the course~~ singular  
a plea which would present  
their case in the light of con  
sistency. The great error of the  
party consists in this: While they re  
pudiate slavery, they virtually aid  
and encourage the democratic party  
in deranging the government of  
the state, which, under a whig ad  
ministration, is as ready to abolish  
slavery, in all parts of the Union,  
as themselves; but if possible, by  
constitutional means, and with  
out a separation of the states by  
violence.
- Saturday. M. partially clou  
dy, wind W. and the day nearly  
the same.
- The work on the mounds  
&c of the west, noticed in page 18  
as preparing for the press I am  
informed is nearly ready for the  
bookstores. From what I have  
learned of the work I think  
it will establish beyond a doubt

Novr  
13

Facts  
it will  
proba  
bly estab  
lish

that long before the discovery of America by Columbus, a race of men inhabited this continent who passed many of the useful arts, far beyond those of the Indians since occupying the country, and that the Mexicans conquered by Cortis were a remnant of those ancient people. Indeed little is wanting, at this time to establish the above opinion, without the promised work.

Its  
Import  
ance

But as the foundation of this opinion may not be generally known a work embracing the principle facts and discoveries may be important.

Suppos  
ed an  
cient  
com  
merce

If then it shall appear from indubitable evidence that a vast people lived and flourished on this continent thousands years ago, it is highly probable that the fact was known to the old countries of Asia; and if the magnetic needle was known in China at so early a period as we are informed it was, it is probable that commerce was carried on across the pacific ocean. through the chain of the Aleutian Islands, or in a higher latitude.

Explorer  
where  
found

Solomans three years voyages from the Red Sea to Ophir, [ ]  
[ ] in the Jewish histories,



Novr  
13

May  
be in  
Mex  
ico }

Route  
of the  
ships  
of Sol  
omon }

have not been satisfactory  
ly traced, nor the position of  
Ophir fixed, whence has ships  
brought home gold & precious stones  
in such abundance. That this  
goal region was in Mexico we  
are not prepared to assert but that voy  
ages might have been made from  
the Red Sea, along the coast of Asia to  
Japan, thence ~~along~~ through the Aleutian islands  
to America and thence along the American  
coast to Mexico, and back the same route,  
in three years, even without the  
magnetic needle, does not appear im  
possible; and if Mexico was then  
inhabited by a people so advanced  
in the arts, as ancient ruins indi  
cate, a clue, to say the least, is offered  
for tracing the voyages of Solomon.  
That the quantity of gold and other  
precious articles brought home, is exa  
gerated, is probable.  
Some writers & travelers have At  
tempted to find Ophir in Africa,  
but I am not aware that large  
mines of the precious metals have  
been discovered in that region. We  
hear indeed of the gold dust there col  
lected, but not in such abundance as  
the voyages of Solomon indicate. Much  
may be said on the subject, but per  
haps nothing of certainty ascertained.  
But if the forthcoming work shall  
establish the fact, that a numerous  
people, with a considerable advance in  
the arts, once inhabited America, our  
ancient history is incomplete.

14 Sunday. morn cloudy with rain,  
wind N.; snow seen on the summits of the  
mountains, but soon disappeared;  
most of the day cloudy; air cold.

Novr  
14

Flocks  
of wild  
geese  
pass  
south }

yesterday flocks of wild geese were seen pushing south, which indicates that winter is about to commence.

The migration of the feathered tribes is a subject full of wonder. The tribes of Geese, ~~are~~ supposed to reside on the northern regions of America during the summer season, takes wing at the approach of winter and proceed, in wild regulated squadrons, to low latitudes, and perhaps south of the equator.

“Who calls the council, states the certain day,  
Who forms the phalanx & who points the way?”<sup>1</sup>

15

Rail  
roads  
zeal  
for }

Monday. M. fair, wind W; the day partially cloudy.

The rage for Rail-Roads still continues rise, and one from Greenfield, or some point near it is projected to Troy on the Hudson. The road is to be carried up Deerfield river to Hoosac mountain through which a tunnel of four or five miles is to be bored to N Adams and there westward to Troy.

Troy  
& Grouts  
Corner  
er  
Road }

Heated zeal finds no difficulty in the task and three or four millions of dollars is but a small sum. Such projects may serve to amuse the people, and to give topics for speeches, resolutions at mass convention. Another rail road is to be constructed from Greenfield eastbound over Connecticut

river

<sup>1</sup> From Alexander Pope's *Essay on Man*

Novr  
15

Vari  
ous  
views  
of the  
subject

river to Grouts corner on miller's river, to meet the Fitch burg road. Our farmers we trust, will at length learn that their welfare depends more on agriculture, economy and industry, than on these roads~ A few on the great marts of the country may be constructed and maintained, but on ~~other~~ short routes, they are a useless expense. and of short duration.

a tun  
nel of  
4 or 5  
miles

Were Hoosac mountain removed from its position, a rail-road from Greenfield to Troy would be futile, since one already exists from Boston to Albany under the patronage of Massachusetts & State of New-York. A tunnel 4 or 5 miles through the mountain would be attended with immense expenses and many years would be required to complete it. In any view of the project I must say, no probability exists its accomplishment. It is said by the advocates of the Troy route, that the business on the present routes road is already too great to be accommodated, then a double track will be laid and the freight cars multiplied to the extent of the exigencies. But if the alledged press of business is now found on this road, it is not likely to continue, after the rail road now constructed from Lake Erie to the Hudson, is completed. The

Novr 15	<p>In the present zeal for rail roads it would be unfortunate if rural routs should be constructed beyond the demands of business, since the result would be a failure of success in all; and the roads now under construction in Hampshire and Vermont may feel this want of support. Let us then avoid a <u>hasty zeal</u> which looks more to self interest than to public good.</p>
16	<p><u>Tuesday.</u> M. fair, wind NW. and fair day.</p>
A Peace meeting }	<p>A meeting is to be held at our town house this evening to prepare a remon stance to be presented to Congress against the Mexican War. The same course I am informed is taken in other towns in the State.</p>
Remarks on the measure }	<p>People unacquainted with the corrupt principles of the present government of the United States, may suppose such a measure would have a useful effect. But a petition to put to death every Mexican found in arms, would be more likely to be adopted by the present ruling party than any pacific scheme. Mr. Polk, though</p>
Mr Polks position	<p>the direct agent in the commencement of the war, may, at length, have become convinced that seizure of the northerly part of Mexico, is not so easy a task as he had supposed; yet placed as he is at the head of the wild democratic party, he will not dare to deviate from their plan and the same subserviency will induce him to continue the war until the whole of Mexico is conquered.</p>

Novr 17	<u>Wednesday</u> M. fair, wind SW and day fair, and pleasant.
Dearth of news from Mex ico. }	There is now a dearth of news from Mexico, and nothing offi cal is seen from Gen. Scott; but it is not to supposed that Mr Polk is kept in the dark in respect to the state of affairs in the invaded country. at a time he is to give a detail of his proceedings to Congress; and what further measures that body will adopt, remains a question. I believe, however, that a majority will be found in both houses in favor of prosecuting the war, even to the destruction of Mexico. Such a course, in my view, could not
Proba ble course of Con gress. }	be more inconsistent than the <u>sanctioning</u> of the war, which Mr. Polk com menced in defiance to the Consti tion. The plea that Gen. Taylor had been improvidently plunged into danger by the President, afford ed nothing for raising 50,000
Indi cated by its past meas ures. }	volunteers, to enable {—} him to make further depravations on a country striving to main tain its existence. The war before its commencement, will present a dark chapter in the history of the United States; and the civilized world will read it as a specimen of our sense of justice and right.

Novr

17

Bound  
ary of  
Texas  
which  
Congress  
should  
offer

The only course of Congress that admits of a plea of right is to offer to Mexico the Rio Grand for the south & west boundary of Texas, and the restoring to her all places that have been captured by us south and west of that river. But our furious democracy would not be contented with this adjustment; for the object of the war was the occasion of all that part of Mexico north of a line of latitude drawn from the mouth of Rio Grand or some point not far above it; and if Mexico will not consent to this line, her whole nation must submit to our rapacity.

Cuba  
the next  
object of  
our grasp

The next grasp will be the Island of Cuba; and in vain would Spain oppose its annexation to our Union if a process similar to that of Texas be adopted: an army of observation would soon effect the object, and how long the other West India islands will escape our grasp, is a question for the consideration of European nations. Nor are the British possessions in North America, long to be exempted from the fraternal hug, though at this time our southern patriots are less desirous of these annexation than of countries where the sun's rays fall more direct, giving vigor to the African race and sustaining their humane institution. But northern democracy is not

Other  
European  
possession  
to receive  
the fraternal  
hug

thus

Novr. 17 thus limited in its views. Liber  
ty and equality must be extended  
to all countries, and where the  
people are unwilling to embrace  
it, they must be forced  
to vict armis.

18 Thursday M. fair, wind S.W.  
and the day, fair & cloudy alternately.  
The Springfield Daily of this day,  
Gen } says Gen Scotts dispatches have  
Scotts } been received & published at Washington.  
dispatches } The total loss in the late Battles 2703  
is re } including 383 officers!  
ceived } An arrival from Tampico bring accounts  
of fatal sickness at that place. One  
company of the Illinois regiment has  
buried 20 men & its captain, within  
two months, and other companies  
could not turn out more than 15  
men fit for duty. The Louisiana regi  
ment of volunteers, which mustered  
from 850 men to 900, could not  
bring into a regimental parade more  
than 200. This probably is but  
the beginning of sorrow.

sick }  
ness }  
at Tam }  
pico }

Vera Cruz date of the 5<sup>th</sup> instant,  
via N. Orleans, say, Gen. Scott has  
established posts on his line of oper  
ation with that place, as follows:

one at the National bridge of	750 men
And then at Jalapa under Gen Cushing	1700
and on other at Puebla, Gen. Lane	<u>2000</u>
total	<u>4450</u>

Mili }  
tary }  
posts }

exclusive of the force at Vera Cruz  
Who of our democratic war-hawks sup  
posed such a force necessary to protect a  
line of operation of about 200 miles

Novr 18	<p>At the commencement of the War these <u>profound judges</u> of military operations, saw no impediments to the march of Gen. Taylor's force from the Rio Grand 400 or 500 miles to the "Halls of Montezuma" and seizing them by a <u>coup de main</u> subsistence for men and horse was out of the question, and arrangement for the passage of mountains, rivers, morasses, and pathless forests, with trains of artillery and baggage, were but <u>musty rules</u> of old warfare, wholly useless for wild volunteers under the stripes of the republican standard.</p>
Mili tary re marks }	<p>Gen. Scotts shorter route from Vera Cruz to the Capital under a tropical sun, was deemed a positive, in which, if the commander adhered to old rules, it would subject him to the epithet of a "<u>Book-general</u>", as some of our <u>se</u> <u>garious</u> members of Congress have dubbed him.</p>
Demo critic nations of war }	<p>To introduce a new system, and abolish the <u>worn caster</u> rules of Generals Marlborough, Frederick and Washington a <u>Lieutenant General</u> was to be selected from our Rifle regions, and others painted into the rank of Generals, who had not been systemized by <u>practice</u> or in the <u>West-point school</u>, and thus Mexico was to be prostrated at a blow~</p>
of Books Generals }	<p><u>Friday</u>. M. cloudy with rain, Wind NW; day continued cloudy with moderate air</p>
The New System of the war Hawks }	
19	



Novr		<u>Saturday</u> . m. fair, wind
20		NW, the day fair & cloudy. with moderate air
21		<u>Sunday</u> . M. cloudy, wind S.W.; clear at noon, and P.M. mostly cloudy. A case of sickness in our family. Mrs. Osgood has a touch of fever, which I hope will be slight, & our Doctor thinks a few day will remove.
Fam	}	
ily		
sick		
ness		
Letter	}	A letter from David S. Hoyt
from		of the 16 <sup>th</sup> of October at the City
D.S. Hoyt		of Mexico to his parent's has
at Mex		been received, in which he
ico		says he is well, and that he is
		<del>well</del> pleased with the Service.
		While I rejoice to hear of
		his welfare, I cannot avoid
		expressing regret that he is
		employed on so unworthy
		service as the conquest of
		a sister republic, striving for
		its independence & rights.
		The corps in which our young
		soldier serves (Hugers Seige train) has
		lost but few men in the late attacks
		Their duty, in general, being at
		<u>long shot</u> , they are less exposed
		than infantry, who rush into the
		<u>thick of the fight</u> , or <u>melee</u> (French)

Novr 22      Monday. M. fair, wind SW  
and day clear and air  
pleasant.

Second }  
meet }  
ing }  
for choice }  
of Repr }  
sentative }

Novr 8<sup>th</sup> stood, Whig 177 democratic 162; but the choice was defeated  
by the "liberty party" who claim  
to be pursuing a wise course.  
Result of the votes this day:  
Samuel Willard Jr Whig      165  
Horace Williams democrat    155  
All others                      45

Result }  
of the }  
Votes }

Reflec }  
tions }

Of course no choice. The  
meeting was got up by the  
whig party, but with what  
prospects of success, I could  
not devise. Was it believed  
that the obstructing party  
diminutive as it is, would re  
linquish their pernicious course  
and unite with the Whigs?

The }  
obstruct }  
ing }  
party }

This would be granting them  
more reflection & foresight  
than their prior course  
has indicated.  
The course of democracy is not  
difficult to explain, but  
that of this party composed  
of men who claim to be guid  
ed by pure principles is  
altogether inexplicable on con  
[    ] grounds.                      To

Novr  
22

Its  
destruct  
tive  
tend  
ency

To pretend that they are more opposed to slavery than the majority of the Whigs, is idle: the only difference in the course of these parties is this, while the latter would abolish slavery by moral suasion and constitutional means, the former would effect it by violence, and the destruction of the constitution & the Union. From the democratic party no aid, in the cause of Abolition, can be expected; for with all their pretended love of liberty & equality, they feel no sympathy for the black man; and their leaders tell them to avoid giving offence to their southern brethren.

23

Tuesday. M. cloudy & rainy, with wind N.E. and thick fog on the mountains; the day continued the same.

Depre  
citation  
of rail  
road  
stock

The Springfield Daily says, We understand that the house of Hoe Gray & Co. of Boston, extensive manufacturers of Railroad Iron, have suspended payment. The immediate cause of this event, is said to be the depreciation of Rail road stocks in which they have taken their pay for rails furnished to construct the roads. This precisely what I have anticipated

Novr

23

 Con  
 sequen  
 ces  
 of

And I think I may safely pre  
 dict that the stock of all the short  
routes in the interior of the country  
 will continue to to depreciate un  
 til the value becomes a negative  
quantity. The great error is in  
 their multiplication beyond the  
 demand. Yet projects for them  
 are still rife, and ~~not~~ tunnels  
 through mountains of 4 or 5 miles  
 are considered no great impede  
 ments: Time will cure the fren  
 zy, and show that none  
 but those on great commercial  
routes can be maintained.

Hence we have reason to fear  
 that some now in operation,  
 or constructing, will sicken and  
 die, before they reach the age  
 of puberty.

24

Wednesday. M. cloudy foggy  
 and wet, with S.W. wind  
 and day rainy & warm

 R. Road  
 acci  
 dent  
 at Whate  
 ly.

The engine on our rail road  
 burst its flue, yesterday. At Whate  
 ly, when the train was detain  
 ed until another engine [—]  
 was sent from Springfield.  
 Complex machinery exerting great  
 power is always liable to acci  
 dents; and where fire and  
 steam and the motive powers  
 they sometimes bid defiance  
 to our precautions

This day a new a drove

of

Novr  
24

Large  
drove  
of Cattle

From  
Shel  
burne  
Vt.

Ano  
ther of  
sheep

25

of Cattle passed our street  
I should judge from 200 to 300  
said to be owned by the celebrated  
farmer, Marsh of Shelburne of  
Vermont.  
If Mr Marsh furnished this  
drove from his own stock, truly  
he may be ranked among  
the mammoth tribe of  
farmers.  
Shelburne is in Crittenden  
County, & bounded north on  
Burlington, West on Lake Cham  
plain & south on Charlotte  
and is said to be fertile  
tract of land, principally settled  
since the close of the war of  
the Revolution. Mr Marsh's  
farm is extensive & well cul  
tivated; the Railroad now  
constructing from Burlington  
to Bellows Falls on the Connect  
icut, passes over the farm.  
Yesterday a large drove of  
sheep past over village, belong  
ing to the same farmer Marsh  
This Gentleman, I am inform  
ed, gained his property by in  
dustry, economy, and careful  
management. Notices of the  
progress of such men, may be  
useful lessons to those who attrib  
ute the failure of their plans to the  
frowns of fortune; as if evil genii  
presided over and dictated their  
destiny.  
Thursday. M. cloudy, wind SW  
and day partially cloudy.

Novr 25		This day is selected by the Gov. of the state for a public thanks giving; and he reminds us of subjects which call for thanks the year past, and invokes blessings on those that are to come. In the proclamations issued on these occasions, we sometimes observe an innumeration of items that savor too much of <u>dictation</u> . I would adopt the language of the enlightened Poet:
Than ksgiv ing	}	
Remarks & Reflections	}	<p>“This day be bread and peace my lot,  All else beneath the sun  Thou know’st it best bestowed or not,  And let they will be done:  To the whose temple is all space,  Whose alter, earth, sea skies,  One chorus let all being raise!  All nature’s incense rise!”<sup>2</sup>  What reflecting mind can [    ]  expressions of thanks and adoration, to the great author of the Universe for its structure, adaptation and design and the unerring laws provided for its government</p>
26		<u>Friday</u> . M. fair, wind W. the day continued fair, but with many broken clouds.
The old Indian house	}	The <u>old house</u> in this village which escaped the conflagration of the French and Indians, 1704 having become inconvenient for a residence, the proprietor, Henry K Hoyt

---

<sup>2</sup> Alexander Pope’s *Universal Prayer*.

Novr  
26

Pro  
ject  
for pre  
serving  
it

finds it necessary to demolish it and erect a new building on the spot. A number of the people of the village, as well as others abroad, being desirous of preserving the old relick, held a meeting to consult on measures for carrying out the object & a Committee was appointed to form a plan to be pursued. It is proposed to move the old building to a new site, and put in repair to render it durable. The expence may be 400 or 500 dollars, which it is thought will fit the building for a farm by residence, retaining the old structure and all of the Indian marks as they now exist.

of dou  
btful  
success

The gentlemen in favor of the project believe that a sufficient antiquarian taste may be found in the public, to accomplish the design, Of this however, I have some doubts: At this time the Railroad spirit is so ripe that any attempt to raise money for other purposes of a public nature, may be ineffectual

27

Letter  
from  
my son  
and wife

Saturday m. cloudy, wind W  
PM partially fair & clear at night.  
A letter from Elizabeth, my sons wife at Burlington, dated the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, states that all are well. Some snow, has whitened the ground, and the steam boats are

Novr  
27

Items  
of the  
Letter }

and  
remarks  
on }

old  
military  
grounds }

are about to suspend their running. The Railroad she say goes quietly, but the refusal of the Vermont Legislature to grant a charter for a bridge over the outlet of the Lake at Rouses Point has caused some excitement, and may be unfavorable to the Ogdenburg road. Probably apprehensions were entertained that a road, would be projected from Rouse's point across the north part of the state, Boston without a connection with the central routes, now constructing to Burlington.

Arthur she says is much interested in the description I gave in my last letter, of the old military fields and operations in the country from Ticonderoga & Glens falls over which he recently passed on a trip to Saratoga Springs; and he says he should like to spend several days in examining the ground. He says, however, that most of the places I mentioned were known or found out to him, but probably very imperfectly, since few of the present generation know little of them. If it be asked how I obtained my knowledge of them? I answer, from letters, journals, places and oral accounts of officers & soldiers who served in the campaigns; and partly, from repeated visits to the grounds for that purpose~



Novr 28		<p><u>Sunday</u>. m. fair, with many loose clouds and S.W. wind P.M. cloudy and snow flakes were seen to fall the air of course cold. We may now look for winter in a short time.</p>
Winter Season near	}	<p>This season though rather dreary does not deny us enjoyment if we are prepared for it. A good stock of fuel, clothing, food and other necessities, render us comfortable. The first article is becoming expensive, since the construction of our rail road, as it furnishes facilities to markets where the price is higher. But to the <u>poor</u> the winter season is sometimes distressing, particularly from a want of fuel if not other articles.</p>
29		<p><u>Monday</u>. M. fair, wind N.W. the day clear, &amp; air <del>moderate</del> cold One week from this day, Congress is to assemble at Washington City, and besides the usual business, the Mexican war will be a topic on which, it is expected, there will be a diversity of opinion; and whether the plans of Mr Polk will be sustained &amp; the war continued until Mexico is completely conquered we cannot say. Every effort, no doubt will be made to convince the people that the war is <u>just &amp; necessary</u>; and a portion of the community will be as ready to believe it so, as that the projectors of the war are persecuting an honest and patriotic course. The cost of the war; one might suppose, would create alarm; but so long as it can be carried on without <u>direct taxes</u>, the hood winked part, will spout <u>huzza</u> for its continuation</p>
Session of Congress near	}	
Conjectures as to its course	}	

Novr 29	First plan of Mr Polk & his par ty }	<p>In ordering Gen. Taylor to advance from his unmolested position on the Nueces, across the disputed boundary to the Rio Grand, Mr Polk acted precisely in obedience to his party viz: to produce a war with Mexico for the purpose of conquering all that part of the Mexican territory lying north of the latitude of the mouth of the latter river, or some point near it. All of his movements since, clearly indicate this design, and sending Stevens <u>agricultural Regiment</u> round Cape Horn to California, fixed it beyond a doubt. But finding more opposition to his plan than he had anticipated, he found it necessary to attack Mexico at a more southerly point. capture the City of Mexico and then offer terms of peace upon the conditions first projected. But finding that the war would incur an enormous debt, and the Mexicans determine on further opposition, he may be disposed to draw back his proposed line of demarkation; but he will not <u>dare</u> to fix it upon the Rio Grand, without the consent of his party Congress, it is hoped, will open their eyes and frustrate his nefarious plan, as just designed.</p>
Subse quent measures	}	
Disap point ment	}	
Duty of Con gress	}	

Novr  
30

Tuesday. M. fair, wind NE  
and air very cold: the day  
clear and cold; Wind changed to SW

Sick  
ness  
in the  
Army  
at Mex  
ico

The Springfield Daily has the fol  
lowing from the New Orleans Delta  
The names of 508 soldiers who died  
in the hospital at Perote, Mexico  
between June 1 and October 30. Twen  
ty of them were members of the  
New England regiment. After  
the close of the war, we shall no  
doubt, see horrible accounts of  
losses by sickness in the army in all parts of the  
Country, probably much beyond the  
losses in battle. To publish them at  
this time, would deter young men  
from enlisting, who know nothing  
of the effects of a hot climate. If  
one half of the men employed  
on that service, should leave their  
bones to pave the fields of Mexico,  
it would be no uncommon a  
result. Ignorant of this fatality, young  
men enlist with no thought but  
of military glory, and too late find  
their mistake. Thus it is found  
that a certain portion of the young  
in all countries, especially after a period  
of 20 or 30 years, are always ready  
to be set up as targets for bullets or victims of  
disease, for the pittance of a soldiers  
pay. in a war of defence the  
delusion may be cherished; but in  
one of offence and destruction of  
a neighboring nation, striving for its  
rights & liberty, it is to be regretted  
that so many are ~~working~~ ready for elev  
ation, totally regardless of right and  
justice; or sympathy for the suffer  
ing inhabitants.

Policy  
of with  
holding  
accounts  
of sick  
ness

False  
notions  
of mili  
tary glory

Decem  
ber 1

Of the  
present  
state  
of England

Her  
nation  
al Debt

Mr Pitts  
sinking  
fund

Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind  
SW, air cold. The day con  
tinued cloudy & cold, and I  
think we shall soon have a fall  
of snow, indicated by the low  
temperature of the air for sev  
eral preceding days.

In the Springfield Daily of  
yesterday the Editor has given  
us some remarks & reflections  
on the present condition of  
Great Britain, which it must  
be confessed bear a gloomy  
aspect. With a national debt  
of more than Eight hundred mil  
lions of pounds sterling, he says  
“England is poorly situated to  
incounter such storms as are  
now breaking upon him.”

England has heretofore been  
the great work shop of the world  
and all nations in their rise  
from a rude state, have felt the  
blessings of her arts, sources, and  
industry. If she is now to fall  
from her elevation the nations  
now rising to importance, though  
less dependent on her than in their  
rude state, will feel the unfortunate  
result. To suppose her national  
debt will ever be paid is idle.  
But so long as she can pay the  
interest of the debt & the expences of  
his government, she may continue  
a nation. In the days of William  
Pitt the plan of a sinking fund was  
proposed, and adopted by Parliament  
but

Decr  
1  
Fail  
ure }  
of }

but from some cause it failed of the expected effect, whether from mismanagement or the improbability of the plan we are not able to decide; for it involves questions of the most intricate nature, foreign to our studies, and such as require a life of careful investigation.

Alison  
on the  
finance  
of England }

In the appendix of Gould's abridgement of Alison's History of Europe from the commencement of the French Revolution to 1815, we find an account of the British finances which affords important information, It is taken from Alison's 41<sup>st</sup> Chapter, and given in his own words.

In treating upon Mr. Pitt's plan for a sinking fund Mr Alison expresses a favorable opinion, and seems to think that had it been carried out in full, it would have relieved the Nation from an embarrassment which now threatens ~~its~~ its destruction, He closes his Chapter with the following painful prediction. "In two centuries the name of England may be extinct, or survive only under the standing of ancient renown; but 150 millions of men in N. America will be speaking its language, reading its authors glorifying its descent. Nations like individuals were not destined to immortality; in their virtue, equally as their vials, their grandeur do their weakness, they bear in their bosoms the seeds of mortality; but in the passions which elevate them to greatness, equally as those which hasten their decay, is to be discerned the increasing operation of these principles at once of conviction and resurrection which are continued in humanity and which, universal in community as in single men, compensate the necessary decline of nations by the vital fire which has given our understanding youth to the human race." Mr Misor is an Englishman, versed in her affairs.

Decr 2	<p><u>Thursday</u> M cloudy wind SW and rainy through the day: air moderate.</p> <p>After the 3 or 4 cold days just past a rain was unlooked for But such changes are some times seen even in the coldest winter winter weather &amp; to ac count for which is not a little difficult. A flow of the warm air from the south, against the cold dense air of the north wind seem to be contrary to hydrostatic laws. Hence we should <u>apri</u> <u>ori</u> conclude that no rains would occur in high latitudes in the winter season, which is contrary to facts. In the course of my journals, I have repeatedly touched upon this subject, and now find nothing new to advance. The <u>gyratory</u> motion of the atmosphere between the tropical regions &amp; the poles is however, strengthened by observations.</p>
The weath er	
Remarks on	
3	<p><u>Friday</u> M. cloudy &amp; rainy; wind NE; the day continued the same This continued rain has swelled our river and flowed the low lands adjacent to it. The former times two or three days of the fall rains often produced floods. Which covered the principal part of our meadow, and sometimes drowned the cattle feeding it. Our rains are now less violent, and floods have become rare.</p>
Rise of the River	

Decr 3		I have known instances of high floods before the crop of Indian corn was gathered, which occasioned a considerable loss of that article, as well as of hay cut late in the season
Instan ces of high floods	}	The annual quantity rain which falls in our latitude I believe lessens as the country is cleared of its woods. The case may not be obvious, but the fact seems to be established, as is another viz: that rivers lessen their quantity of water as the adjacent forests are cleared away. I think this <u>evaporation</u> has a hand in this process as also, in the great change of our summer showers within 40 or 50 years, observable by all who have carefully noticed their phenomena.
Dim ination of the waters of rivers	}	
4		<u>Saturday</u> . M. fair, wind NW. and the day was pleasant
South Caro lina Reso lution	}	From the Springfield Daily of yesterday. "The following Resolutions were offered and disposed of in the South Carolina House of Representatives on the 25 <sup>th</sup> of November. <u>Resolved</u> , that His Excellency, the Governor be requested to return <u>without comment</u> to the Governors of Connecticut and Rhode Island the resolutions of those states, in relation to the <u>Wil mont Proviso</u> which was agreed to <u>unanimously</u> , and referred to the committee on federal relations. Mr Gist submitted the following resolution <u>Resolved</u> . That the war now waged against the republic of Mexico is <u>just and</u>

Decr 4		<u>and proper</u> , and that South Carolina will sustain it with all the means in her power. It was agreed to and ordered to be printed.”
That state a non descript	}	South Carolina is really a non descript in her political course While most other slave states are ready to present some excuse for sustaining slavery, she with audacity, in consistent with a people claiming common civility re fuses even a reply to her sister States. If she is desirous to retain a particle of respect from the members of the national family, she must abandon her insulting course and return to the common rules of civility. It is time for her to recollect that a <u>state oligarchy</u> is not to govern the people of other states. in which republican princi ples are the basis of liberty.
Her claim to civil ity a farce	}	Her approbation of the war is easily explained, when her opposition to the Wilmont Provi so is seen. “ <u>The war is just and proper!</u> ” Aye! it is for the conquest of territory to enable them to extend & perpetuate sla very and the east is a consid eration of minor importance. If under her delusion, the Union of the states can be maintained, then wise men have misjudged.
Her ap proba tion of the war easily ex plained	}	



Decr

4

Caution }  
for her }

Let her return to the common principles of politeness, or consent to be held as an outcast in the federal compact. We wish her to return to common sense, and thereby avoid the degradation which awaits him. If however, she persists in her obstinacy and the other states and Congress submit to her audacity, we may bid farewell to Constitution and liberties of our country.

Design }  
of the }  
Wilmont }  
Proviso }

Let it not be understood that we would not unconstitutionally interfere with southern slavery as it now exists, but only restrains its extension to territory conquered by our Armies which is the extent of the Wilmont Proviso. But if the slave states will not consent to this reasonable plan, the consequence may be fatal to our Union. May the wisdom of our patriots save us from the horrors of [ ] {—} conflict, in which the passions of men feel no restraint and sympathy gives way to relentless ferocity.

But in such a conflict, if the people of the free states are firmly united, and the slaves roused to a sense of their wrongs, the result would not be doubtful; yet alas! public virtue has too feeble a hold on a portion of community to warrant a successful struggle, even with a weak enemy; and it sometimes happens that injustice & ferocity succeed against justice & virtue. The Mexican war will probably show another instance of this kind.

Decr		<u>Sunday</u> M cloudy, wind NW
5		clouds continued through the day
Snow	}	and cold air. About 3 PM
fell		a snow commenced and con
		tinued moderately into evening
		covering the ground with a light
		coat of about an inch
6		<u>Monday.</u> M cloudy wind N.
		soon fair, and so continued
		until night & thus became cloudy
Session	}	This day Congress commences
of Congress		its annual session at the City
		of Washington, and of course
		Mr. Polk will present his mes
		sage on budgit relating to <u>his</u>
		war with Mexico; and who
		those he will again assert that the
President	}	Mexicans commenced the war
Polk's		by invading our territory, is to
Message		be seen. He may have bared
pend		that <u>truth</u> is not to be tam
ing		pered with, in a national game
		of this magnitude, and also
		that to run lines of demarka
		tion at his pleasure, is not so
		small a task as he anticipated.
		He will tell us a long tale of
	his <u>glorious</u> virtues; and though	
	he has lost many of his troops by	
	battles & sickness, he may offer,	
	as consolation, that the Mexi	
	cans have lost a greater number.	
	But what is human life when	
	put in competition with enlargement	
		of

Decr  
 6                      of territory, and the spread of  
                          democratic principles?  
 Mr Walk } Mr Walker's Report of the treasury  
 er        } and the call for further loans, may  
                  create some alarm; but  
                  millions of dollars is but a paltry  
                  sum when expended in the conquest  
                  of a neighboring country.  
 Wilmot } But the Wilmont proviso!—What is to  
 Proviso } be done with this anti-slavery scheme  
                  South Carolina [    ] to threaten nul  
                  lifcation, if Congress pass laws un  
                  favorable to her “peculiar institution”  
 South } and extension of slavery: and is  
 Caro } this refractory state to govern the  
 lina } Union and nullify the federal Con  
          stitution! Congress it is hoped, will  
          pursue a steady constitutional course,  
          and if that state [    ] shall place her  
          self in opposition to the laws, let  
 Course } her feel the consequence. Such a  
 of Con } course will, sooner or later, be necessary  
 gress } to try the strength of the laws and Con  
          stitution. What will be the course of  
          Congress in relation to the war “we  
          shall probably soon learn. With the  
          assembled wisdom of the nation, we  
          would hope it may be a just one. The  
          session, it is supposed, will be stronger  
          and many of the combustible materials  
          which compose that body, sat on fire.  
          We wait patiently for the develop  
          ment of Mr Polk's plan of further  
          operations in Mexico, not doubting  
          that it will be a very wise one~  
 Extract } A Letter from Washington of the  
 of a Letter } 23d ult. has the following.  
                  “We have men of courage in council as  
                  well as in war, men who can neither  
                  be cajoled, flattered, reproached, threatened

nor

Decr 6		nor bribed into silence before enquiry, however supposed. Thank God there are such men, not a few, in the Congress about to assemble; and the real character and merits of the contest will be investigated most searchingly and fearlessly; and a void will go forth- a void of wisdom, truth and power—which it is to be hoped will awake the nation from its delusive drain of <u>glory</u> to a just sense of its honor, its interest and its duty.”
from Wash ington	}	
Remarks on	}	That we have in Congress, men such as the writer describes, I have the satisfaction to believe; but that they will be able to send forth a voice that shall rouse the people from their delusive dream, in which they repose, I have no sanguine expectations.
Notions of the peo ple	}	From the case with which demagogues diffuse their poison, the people are led to distrust talents as aristocratic & eminent men are repudiated as enemies to equal liberty than which a more pernicious political error can not exist; and such is the extent of their error, at this time.
Talents repudi ated	}	that an attempt to elect <u>a Webster</u> or <u>a Clay</u> to the Presidency, will be fruitless. No! some obscure individual, more subservient to party must be selected When the people of a republic are thus disposed, they soon sink to

Decr 6		to a low point in the po litical scale, and lose their res pectability.
The Wash ington admin istration	}	Under the administration of Washington, aided by his co-patri ots, the United States Steadily rose to wards a high niche in the temple of fame; but since that period, our political machine, with a few exceptions, has de scribed an inclined plane, with accelerated velocity, to a low level, from which it will be impossible to raise it, with out the aide of more public virtue and national honor, than we now possess.
Our po litical descent	}	But let us not despair: a time may arrive when virtue, talents and honor, will again be appreciated and the low arts of the demagogue repudiated; though it must be ack nowledged, this is rather an <u>up-hill</u> course, not often seen where corruption has gained an ascendancy.
A bet ter prospect	}	<u>Tuesday</u> M. fair, wind S.W.; the day clear and pleasant.
7		A young gentleman called at my room with the <u>Pictorial History of America</u> by S.G. Goodrich of Hartford, including many engravings. 1 Vol 8 vo—price \$3.50 The work is well printed an handsomely bound, & no doubt contains much in teresting & useful matter, But want of loose coin
A new work	}	

Decr  
7  
by Mr  
Good  
rich }

forbid a purchase; and I regret that I am not able to keep pari passu, with the new publication issuing from the press. Mr Goodrich work may not contain much that is new to a thorough historian; but as it is a condensation of many other works, it is, probably, a useful vol. particularly for families~

Letters  
to my  
Daugh  
ter }

Mailed a letter to my Daughter at Chicopee Falls, who complains of the infrequency of my correspondence. Far be from me an apathy that would cause me to neglect my friends, or to feel indifferent to their welfare & happiness. In a friendly correspondence the French naivte is requisite of which I do not profess much skill. Habituated to scientific research historical facts, and deductions my letters become stiff and lack the easy practical flow which pleases the imagination of the beau monde. In this playful mode of writing, delicately instructed females often excel and bear away the wrath from the abstract philosopher.

8

Death  
of Mary  
Briggs }

Wednesday. M. fair, wind SW; the day clear & pleasant. Snow gone. Died yesterday, Mary, wife of William Briggs, of this village of a consumption. She and her husband had been my housekeepers for some time which she was in rather a feeble state, and they were attentive to my wants. Last evening I received a letter from my kinsman

Decr  
8

Letter  
from  
D.S. Hoyt  
in Mexi  
co

His  
Corps

Worth's  
rash  
attack

His  
loss  
of men

Re  
marks

kinsman, David S Hoyt, dated  
at the City of Mexico, October 31<sup>st</sup> 1847,  
a soldier in Gen. Scotts army in the  
seige tram corps, numbering about  
63 men, forming what may be called  
an Artifice corps. whose principal  
employment is repairing the various  
munitions ~~of war~~, and the implements  
of war. He says "we have in the Com  
pany, Carpenters, Blacksmiths Gun-  
smiths, Painters &c. who are employ  
ed ten hours each day. and that he  
keeps a journal. He says the climate is  
delightful; the thermometer on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
of October 79° on the 2d 74° on the 3d  
74° Details of several battles are given  
in which many men were lost. On  
the 8<sup>th</sup> of September, Gen. Worth attacked  
the Mexicans at Chapultipuc with  
500 men who were reduced to one  
half, in half an hour and he compelled  
to give ground; but reinforcements com  
ing up on the right & left, he cleared the  
field in about 2 hours, losing 666 men  
out of 2200 engaged—the Mexicans stat  
ed at 16000. By another mail  
he thinks he can send me something  
interesting~  
In most of the attacks of our troops in  
this war, it appears to me a rashness has  
been displayed which regular experienced  
troops would have avoided by more  
cautious movements, dictated by art, and  
at less expense of lives. But our new fledged  
commands scorn to think that a chivalrous  
spirit is all that is required in the field, and that  
to carry fortified places, the art of the En  
gineer is useless. Raw troops sometime per  
form wonders, but they often [    ] & fail where  
veterans succeed: at the best they are uncertain troops

Decr  
8

Letter  
from  
son Ar  
thur }

Abstra  
ct of }

9

Speak  
er of  
the House  
of Repre  
sentatives  
in Con  
gress }

A letter from my son Arthur at Burlington of the 3d instant, received this day, informs me that the Railroad is progressing regularly—that his line of 52 miles is a beautiful one—the grading will be done next year and a part put in operation. that all are well except little Charles, and that they enjoy themselves well. steam boats, he says, have stopped running and we shall soon be land locked’ thinks of a visit to Deerfield in the winter--, but is doubtful about it. He mentions the contest in the Legislature of Vermont, concerning building the Lake at Rous’s Point which he says was a warm battle in which Judge Fallett President of the Board, took a part, says we have a good board of Directors, three of whom from Boston, lately viewed the work, and were pleased with it.

Thursday. M. cloudy—wind SW and the day generally the same. We learn from the papers, that the Congress House of Representatives has elected Robt. Winthrop of Massachusetts for its speaker, by a small majority. Mr Winthrop is a Whig member and reputed to be a gentleman of good political acquirements, and probably will discharge his duties to the satisfaction of the true friend of our country. But notwithstanding this favorable symptom, I am not without apprehensions that the House will lack that firmness of action, now



Decr  
9

Charms  
of mili  
tary glo  
ry

Mexi  
co not  
conquered

Defeat  
of his  
forces

Blun  
der of  
Congress

necessary to relieve us from  
the wrong position in which we have  
been placed, by Mr Polk and  
his party. Such are the charms  
of what is called military glory  
that among the whigs, some will  
be carried away by the bubble  
in which case terms of peace, just  
and honorable to Mexico, may be  
refused. She is not conquered  
but so crippled that further de  
fence must be feeble. Had she  
money & other resources, with an  
army of veteran infantry and  
artillery, relying less on her Cavalry  
she might have taught us that conquest  
is still at a distance. But unlike  
most other nations, she seems not  
to increase in prowess by military  
experience; when a nation is  
unable to defend herself against a  
neighboring power, it may at once sur  
ender its independence, and ask  
for the privilege of Vassalage.  
In granting money & men to Mr Polk,  
to wage an aggressive war, Congress com  
mitted an egregious blunder, and it  
is found that they may not  
correct it, at this time.  
If Mr Polk's course be considered as  
a precedent, we may be plunged into  
war, on every national dispute  
The [ ] wars in the North-east  
boundary dispute, would have thrust  
us into war with Great Britain,  
for a useless piece of land.

Decr 9	In the Oregon dispute Mr Polk migh have played the same game but he and his supporters thought land speculation in Mexico would be more eligible and profitable
10	<u>Friday</u> M. cloudy, wind NW and the day cloudy throughout. <u>Mr. Polk's message</u>
Presi dents message	I have this day perused this extended document, a great por tion of which is occupied with the Mexican war; and we regret to see him still persisting in the <u>demonstrated falsehood</u> , that Mexico commenced the war by invading our territory. Setting out with this gross assertion, he attempts to show that the whole of his subsequent movements dictated by necessity, and that the war, on our part, is really <u>de fensive</u> . Some of the friends of Mr Polk have asserted that in his private character he ad hered to moral obligations, and was inoffensive. Granting this, it is to be regretted that he is so biased by his <u>party</u> as to risk his political character in an assertion so obviously untrue. His order to Gen. Taylor to advance from his unmolested position on the <u>Nueces</u> across the the disputed territory to the <u>Rio</u>
The false hood reiter ated	
at the risk of moral rectitude	

Decr  
10

Object  
of the  
war  
clear }

Broach  
ed by  
Mr. Mon  
roe }

Anec  
dot of  
the French  
man  
& his  
poker }

Grande proves beyond  
dispute, his intention to wage  
war with Mexico, for the  
purpose of obtaining possession  
of the country between Texas  
and the pacific ocean, as pre  
scribed in his offices to the  
Mexican government in the  
late attempt to negotiate  
through Mr Trist. If a parti  
cle of doubt existed respecting his  
plan of obtaining possession of North  
California & new Mexico, it is re  
moved by the claims he presents  
in his present message, to that  
territory: and he does not at  
tempt to disguise this plan, which  
he admits was broached so long  
ago as Mr Monroes Administration  
and reiterated by himself, in his  
first annual message. But the cessation  
of this wide territory, so convenient  
for annexation to United States, is not  
all which his capacity demands.  
The Mexicans for opposing his  
encroachments, must pay an in  
demity for the cost & trouble they  
have occasioned him, by resistance.  
The scheme of Mr Polk reminds me  
of the anecdote of the Frenchman  
and his heated poker, given (if I am  
not mistaken) by Dr. Franklin. The French  
man being denied an opportunity to  
try his experiment on an Englishman  
by threading his hot iron into a delicate  
part of the body, indignantly replied, "Say  
you will then pay me for the trouble  
of heating the poker". Mr Polk's  
message

- Decr  
10      message cloudy indicates disap  
pointment in his war, and the  
question is how to get rid of  
it? But he seems to be determined  
to demand pay for heating the  
poker. The document shows  
many weak points, which it is  
believed will not escape the  
notice of the friends of the coun  
try, both in and out of Con  
gress.
- 11      Saturday M cloudy, wind SW  
and air warm PM broken  
clouds, & wind variable to W  
and N.
- Mr Polks } Further notice of Mr Polk's Message  
message }  
again    }    As a proof of his tender feelings  
towards the offending Mexicans, and his  
disinterestedness, our President profes  
es to hold out the olive-branch.
- His Olive }  
Branch    }    He says, "Whilst our armies advanced  
from victory to victory, from the com  
mencement of the war, it has always  
been with the olive branch of peace  
in their hands; and it has been in  
the power of Mexico, at every step  
to arrest hostilities by accepting it:  
But let us take a glance at this peace  
ful olive-branch. The Commission  
er of the United States was author  
ized to agree to the establishment of  
the Rio Grand as the boundary from  
its entrance into the Gulf to its inter  
section with the southern boundary  
of New Mexico, in N. Lat. about 32°,  
and to obtain a cession to the U. States  
of the Provinces of New Mexico and  
the Californias, and the privilege
- A }  
Glance }  
at it    }

Decr  
11  
Bound  
ary  
proposed } of the right of way across isthmus  
of Tehuantepec. The boundary of the  
Rio Grand and the cession to the U.  
States, of New Mexico and upper  
California constituted an ultimatum  
which our Commissioner was under  
no circumstances to yield”

Softening } “That it might be manifest not only  
of the demand } to Mexico, but to all other Nations  
that the U. States were not disposed  
to take advantage of a feeble power  
by insisting upon wrestling from his  
guard and held under our mili  
tary occupation, but were willing  
to conclude a treaty in a spirit of  
liberality, our Commissioner was au  
thorized to stipulate for the restor  
ation to Mexico of all other conquests  
“As the territory to be required by  
the boundary proposed might be es  
timated to be of greater value than a fair  
equivalent for our just demands, our  
Commissioner was authorized to stipu  
late for the payment of such additions  
al [     ] consideration as was deem  
ed reasonable.”

Mr Polk } This is Mr Polks olive branch held out  
pretensions } to the Mexicans; and truly its branch  
es spread over a considerable territory  
which Mr. Munro had in view, and  
Mr Polk attempted to grasp, when he  
ordered Gen Taylor to advance from the  
Nueces to the Rio Grand. But the tender  
hearted President assures us, “It has ever  
been our cherished policy to cultivate  
peace and good will with all nations;  
and this policy has been steadily pursued  
by me.” When he ordered Gen Taylors  
force from Corpus Christie to the Rio Grand  
then to construct fortifications, did he have  
in view the “good will” of Mexico, and hold  
but the olive Branch? Disguise the motive as  
as he was, the design is obvious.

Elucia }  
dated }

Decr 12 Mild ness of the season	} }	<u>Sunday</u> M. cloudy wind N. and the day generally cloudy. The ground is now entirely free from snow, and I believe from frost and the weather moderate. A continuance of such weather would be agreeable to my feelings but perhaps less beneficial to the vegetable kingdom than ordinary winter snows. and frosts. For an investigation of this subject see 1 <sup>st</sup> chap, Book 1 of Whiwell's <u>Astro</u> <u>nomy and General Physics</u> page 28.
13  Call of Mrs. Arms of Glens Falls	} }	<u>Monday.</u> M. cloudy, wind S.W., and day cloudy throughout. rain last night. Mrs Cynthia Arms of Glens Falls, widow of the late Josiah S. Arms, called on me this day. She says this village in creases in business & is great place for trade. She informs me that <del>the</del> the frame work which was erected around my Daughters Grave, in the cemetery of that place, is gone to decay, and that nothing marks the spot. I think of proposing to my son, now at Burlington, the erection of a suit able monuments to preserve the spot. Monuments of this kind are generally erected by connections and afford a soothing satisfaction on visiting the last homes of dear friends. Mrs. Arms offers her aid in seeing the stones placed. A stone cutter works in the village, and she thinks will provide a pair of stones at a reasonable price say 15 dollars. "Under the expectation that my Daughter's husband David F Dickinson would procure a monument the <u>failure</u> is to be attributed.
State of my Daugh ters Grave at that place	} }	
A mon ument proposed	} }	

Decr  
14  
Letter }  
to my  
Son } Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind NE  
and day cloudy & foggy. Some rain  
Wrote a letter to son Arthur at  
Burlington Vt., with proposals for  
erecting grave stones at my Daughters  
grave at Glens Falls, the frame  
work first erected, having gone to decay.  
She died at that place January 14<sup>th</sup>  
1817, aged nearly 23 years Was wife of Da  
vid F. Dickinson Esqr. of that place;  
born May 29<sup>th</sup> 1794. Time eradi  
cates the poignancy, but not the re  
membrance of deceased friends.

Glens }  
Falls }

My }  
recon }  
naisan }  
ces of }  
the old }  
battle }  
fields }

Minute }  
ness of }  
my ex }  
amina }  
tions }

In the spring succeeding the death  
of my Daughter, I visited Glens Falls  
with my wife and Mrs. (Col.) Dick  
inson, the mother of Fanny's husband,  
and became acquainted with several  
Gentlemen of the place; and to di  
vert my mind from depressing grief  
visited Lake George and looked over  
the old battle grounds of the war of  
1755, in which many people of Mass  
achusetts lost their lives, and their  
bones rest in obscurity. Since which  
I have made frequent visits to the  
same memorable grounds, and  
with the aid of old Letters, journals  
of officers & soldiers, and verbal ac  
counts I have since collected, have become  
extensively acquainted with (as I believe)  
all the military operations in that  
section of country, both of the war  
of 1755 and that our revolution. So  
minute has been my reconnaissances  
that I can, from recollection, sketch  
with considerable exactness, all the  
fields where battles & skirmishes  
have occurred on that section of coun  
try, including those about Lake George  
and Ticonderoga. Such researches  
may be deemed, by the busy world as

Decr  
14

Reflec  
tions }

Dr John  
son's  
senti  
ments }

a useless employment; but I cannot but agree with Dr. John son when he said "Far be from me or my friends, such frigid philosophy as may conduct us, indifferent and unmoved, over any ground that has been dignified by wisdom, bravery, or virtue. That man is little to be [ ] ed whose patriotism would not grow warmer among the ruins of Iona." Imbued with these sentiments, this American Flanders never ceases to command my attention, and the cemetery of Glens Falls, my poignant grief. Old as I am, another visit to to these grounds, would be highly interesting. On my last with Mr L.B. Lincoln, preceptor of our Academy, 1840, I found a young race at the Falls, who knew little of the ~~of the~~ old military operations in that part of the country, and who partook little of the sentiments of Dr. John son.

15

Death of old  
acquaint  
ances }

Wednesday. M. cloudy, wind SW. PM. mostly fair with mild air

We hear of the death of Joseph Lyman Esqr of Northampton aged 80, and also of that of Chancellor Kent of New York City aged 85 two firm pillars in our national edifice, Mr Lyman, had sustained important stations in the state, and was a member of the Hartford Connection; so much



Decr  
15  
Brief }  
notice }  
of }

much vituperative by our Democrats. Chancellor Kent was celebrated for his Legal knowledge, wrote Commentaries on the laws, which are held in high estimation. I had the pleasure of an acquaintance with both of Gentlemen. Being at Albany, I met the Chancellor at a Boostore, and he invited me to visit his office, then in that City, to view his library, which was very extensive & composed of rare works. With his great prowess of mind, he possessed an urbanity, not always found in men of his cast, and could turn his attention to any subject of importance. I thought him an extraordinary man. Accidentally meeting him at North field, in this county, After his age of 60, prohibited his holding the office of Chancellor, a provision in the Constitution of his state, I rallied him on his inability to discharge the duties of his late office. He pleasantly replied, "My constitution is now better than that of the state of New-York" 16 Thursday. M. cloudy wind N. and the day partially fair. We hear of no important movements in Congress, up to this time, and with a loco foco Senate we look for no important corrections of Mr. Polk's unconstitutional studies Delinda est Carthago, will still be the motto of democracy, and Mexico must cease to exist as an independent nation for the plain reason the she cannot defend himself against our rapacity

Con }  
gress }

Decr  
 17      Friday M. cloudy, rainy, a  
          little snow last night, whit  
          ing the ground, and wind N  
          the day cloudy & some rain  
 Death      }      Our papers given an account  
 from      }      of the death of a Dr. Wainwright  
 the bite      }      of the city of N. York, from  
 of a Rattle      }      the bite of a Rattlesnake.  
 Snake      }      A friend in Alabama sent  
               }      to Dr. Wainwright, a Box  
               }      of rare plants, inclosing, also  
               }      a live rattle snake of 6 feet. To  
 Partic      }      exhibit the reptile to his friends.  
 ulars      }      The Dr took the Box to a public  
 of      }      house, in the evening, and knocking  
               }      off the top of the box, the snake  
               }      was let loose upon the barron  
               }      floor, when he threw himself into  
               }      a coil and seemed to be inclined  
               }      to remain quiet. He was teased  
               }      with a stick without betraying  
               }      much irritation. After having  
               }      been viewed some time, the Dr  
 The Dr      }      attempted to return the snake in  
 incautious }      to the box, by seizing him with ~~the~~ his na  
               }      ked hand, on which the reptile  
               }      struck his fangs into the Dr's hand be  
               }      tween two fingers. To prevent the  
               }      spread of the poison, the flesh about  
               }      the wound was cut away. The Dr  
 Remi      }      then returned to his house, where  
 dies in      }      medicial & surgical aid was called,  
 effectual }      and energetic measures taken to pre  
               }      vent the ~~the~~ spread of the poison, but  
               }      with no effect; the intire arm scold  
               }      ed most fearfully, and the virus extend  
               }      to the body, and death ensued about  
               }      half an hour after midnight.      The

Decr  
17

The body after death, presented the usual appearance of disease from the bite of these reptiles, it being frightfully swollen and mottled. The medical applications are not described in the account.

Dr  
Thach  
ers su  
ccessful  
treat  
ment  
in a  
similar  
case

In Dr. James Thachers Journal of our Revolutionary War, we find an account of a successful treatment of a similar bite—of a rattlesnake, at Ticonderoga, in Sept 1776. A soldier foolishly seized the snake by the tail, and the reptile threw his head back and struck his fangs into the man's hand. In a few minutes a swelling pain, and it was not more than half an hour, when his whole arm to his shoulder, was swollen to twice its natural size, and the skin became of a deep orange color. The body on one side, soon became affected in a similar manner and a nausea at his stomach ensued. Dr Thacher & two other medical men, were in close attendance for several hours. Having procured a quantity of olive oil the patient was directed to swallow ~~to swallow~~ it in large doses, till he had taken one quart; and at the same time they rubbed into the affected part a very large quantity of mercurial ointment. In about two hours, they had the satisfaction to perceive the favorable effects of the remedies. The alarming symptoms abated, the swelling and pain gradually subsided and in about 48 hours the man

Olive  
oil  
used

Decr  
 17      was returned to health. (See  
          page 63 of the Journal)  
 Treat      The elder Dr. Williams of this  
 ment      town, I am informed, was suc  
 of case Dr Williams of this town } cessful in a similar practice ~  
          Within my recollection, these  
          dangerous reptiles were plenty  
          in our northeastern woods  
          and sometimes found in  
          the open lands. I have killed  
          several of them and have ob  
          served some of their habits.  
 Habits } In moving along the ground  
 of the } they are slow, and appear  
 snake } rather clumsy; but on approach  
          ing them; they present a dif  
          ferent character, throwing them  
          suddenly into a coil, the head &  
          tail with the rattle, projecting from  
          the center, the latter in swift mo  
          tion, giving a sharp, piercing  
          sound, they present an object  
          from which one is willing to  
          remain at some distance, until  
          provided with a proper weapon  
          for an attack; but a few slight  
          blows dispatch them as they  
          generally attack in ambuscade, they would  
          be more dangerous were it not  
          for their precious signal for battle.  
 His pre } which in a full grown one, may  
 peration } be heard at some distance. The  
 for bat } notion that they possess the power  
 tle } of charming birds and some other  
          animals, I have always considered  
          as without foundation.  
 Prior } Where these reptiles are numerous  
 signal } some caution is necessary to avoid  
          their hidden attacks. In one  
 Caution } instance I was exposed to one.  
 necessary }

Decr  
17

Instance  
of expo  
sure  
of my  
self

from one of these reptiles.

Mowing a field of Peas and oats  
in the NE part of our north  
meadow, I surrounded the field in  
the morning, and continued the work  
until I reached it to a narrow strip  
then slashing the narrow remnant  
with my scythe, I struck over one  
of these ferocious reptiles in ambus  
cade. His war signal apprised  
me of his contiguity, and I soon  
put the quarters(?) upon him~  
Probably I had often passed near  
him in the course of the day, and drawn  
him inwards to the last swath.

Dogs  
aware  
of the  
danger  
from  
the rep  
tile

By some means (shall we say, in  
stinct!) dogs are aware of the danger  
of approaching them within striking  
distance. I have seen one of these  
segarious servants, continuously playing  
round them when discovered coiled up  
for battle & always at a proper dist  
ance, while the same dog would  
seize other snakes as soon as they  
discovered them.

Once  
plenty  
in our  
woods

The Rattle-snake has now become  
rare in our part of the country &  
probably will soon become extinct.  
but they are plenty in some of the  
western states, where a smaller  
species is also found on the prairie.  
For the anatomy and physiology, and  
technical description of reptiles, see the  
article ophiology. Vol. 14, Edinburgh En  
cyclopaedia.

In the forgoing, I have given a brief  
description of the movements of this rep  
tile on coming suddenly upon them.  
The following from the Poem entitled the  
Foresters by Wilson, the ornithologist

Decr  
17  
Wilson's  
descript  
tion  
of meet  
ing one

is more graphic appropriate and striking.  
Pursuing his route with a companion  
and a guide, up the Susquehanna  
he meets with one of these reptiles  
in his path.  
"Twas now deep noon, the winding pathway led,  
Beneath tall maples, near the river's bed,  
Where moss grown logs, on moulding ruins lay,  
And spice & dogwood fringed the narrow way;  
The scarlet berries clustering hung around,  
And mixed with yellow leaves, bestrewed the ground,  
There glistening lay, extended o'er the path  
With steadfast piercing eye, gathering wrath,  
A large grim rattle snake of monstrous size,  
Three times three feet his length enormous lies;  
His painted scales in regular rows engraved;  
His yellow sides with wreaths of dusky waved;  
Fix'd to the spot, with staring eyes we stood!  
He slowly moving, sought the adjoining wood;  
Conscious of deadly power, he seemed to say,  
Pass on in peace, let each pursue his way  
But when th' uplifted musket met his view  
Sudden in sounding coils his form he threw!  
Fierce from the center rose his flatten'd head  
With quivering tongue and eyes of fiery red,  
And jaws extended vast, where threatening lay  
The fangs of death in horrible array:  
While pois'd above, invisible to view  
His whizzing tail in swift vibration flow.  
Back sprung our bard, and aiming to let fly  
Glanced o'er the deadly tube his vengeful eye:  
And now distraction seem'd at once decreed:  
But Duncan, pleading, check'd the barbarous deed  
O spare the brave! "Our generous pilot cried,  
Let mercy Sir! let justice now decide;  
This noble foe, so terrible to sight,  
Though armed with death, yet ne'er provokes the fight."  
The pleading of Duncan prevailed;

- Decr 17 the bard lowered his musket and permitted the monster to cross into the wood unmolested—a forbearance few would have granted. See appendix to my ~~to my~~ journey to the Genesee Country, in 1801. Sketch Book No. 8
- 18 Saturday. M. cloudy wind NE soon fair. Last night snow fell 2 or 3 inches. PM wind SW sleighs run through out streets.
- 19 Sunday M. fair, wind SW & air cold. PM cloudy wind NW and again SW with indications of rain
- 20 Monday. M. cloudy wind SW the day proved mostly cloudy cold A Committee appointed at a meeting of the people of our village to take measures for preserving the old House which escaped the conflagration of the French and Indians in 1704, are now printing a hand bill containing a plan for that purpose. It is proposed to raise a sum sufficient to purchase the whole homelot (about 6 acres) & repair the building for view, in future times. The owner, Mr Henry K Hoyt, will sell it for 2300 dollars. Whether there is an antiquarian taste among the people to carry out the plan, is to be seen. The people here are encouraged in the plan, from letters received from Gentlemen in various parts of the Country desirous of preserving the building. The success of the plan will

Plan  
for pre  
serving  
the old  
house  
in this  
village

Decr 20		will depend on the taste of the people for antiquarian relicks. True it is many possess this taste; but others who calculate by dollars and units, are totally indifferent to them. Which are the most unfit members of society? is a question. For myself, however, I cannot but give the preference to the former. Those who lack this taste would readily omit the creation of monuments to the dead; but in general, nothing is more gratifying than these memorals. A writer who seems to possess refined feelings on this subject, says
Reflec tions on an tiquari an taste	}	“There is a singular pleasure in contemplating the mighty dead, who slumber beneath you. It is a pleasure which resembles the <u>Eolian harp</u> heard, <del>heard</del> amidst the repose and tranquility of night. The mind is thrown off its poise and floats along the stream of time, mellowed and chastened by retrospection. The fame of a great man preserves every thing connected with him from oblivion; and while even the situations of magnificent cities are forgotten we are familiar with the insignificant village that sheltered some humble philosopher, or the rill that quenched the thirst of some indigent bard” <sup>3</sup> . This taste is often found inventing in young men who are gratified with nothing but novelties, which the experienced man views with indifference ~
Mon uments to the dead	}	
Satis faction on view ing them	}	
Analy tic medi cine.	}	By a hand bill dropped in my entry, our people are invited to attend a Lecture, this evening on analytick medicine at the town hall

<sup>3</sup> From Geroge Watterson's *Letters from Washington on the Constitution and Laws with sketches* ... The quote is referring to Watterson's visit to Mount Vernon, and viewing Washington's grave.



Decr  
20

A Lec  
ture on  
by Dr  
Tubbs

Re  
marks  
on

Impor  
tance of  
names

21  
A Let  
ter

hall, by Dr H. Tubbs from  
Hartford. He rejects the use of  
minerals, as mercury & arsenic &c  
Likewise, bleeding, blistering, emit  
ics, steaming, or the employment  
of either vegetables or mineral poison  
The Analytical System of Medi  
cine he says, differs widely from  
all others—Thus it appears that  
all experience from Galin down  
the present time, is to be cast  
aside, for some theoretical scheme  
generated in the head or tail  
of some wild innovator, where  
knowledge of medicine, and of the  
human body, may be limited to the  
narrowest bounds. Analytic Medi  
cine! Much depends on a new name  
but the most effectual for innovation  
are those least understood. Some long  
Greek name is the best, especially if  
wholly unknown to the people.  
That medicine admits an improvement  
is no doubt true, and it has been improved  
and is improving under philosophic  
hands; but to set it aside at a stroke  
is a futile attempt. If ever it is to  
assume a new form, it must be by  
the hands of scientific men who are  
deeply versed in its study. Attempts  
of this kind, however, accord with the  
spirit of the times, and I should not  
be surprised to see attempts to set aside  
mathematical reasoning: all old systems  
must be repudiated, under the pretence  
of improvement!

Tuesday M. fair, wind NE and  
cold air; the day fair throughout.  
Last evening a letter from Daughter Isabella  
all well. The

Decr  
21  
A good  
season  
for Genl  
Scotts  
operations

The Sun now at its greatest S. declination, and the days short est—a favorable time for General Scott to spread liberty among the Mexicans, and teaching them the rights of nations under Mr Polks olive branch Viz. the cession of Mexico North of the latitude of 32 degrees a moderate slice for the first essay! But it “has ever been his” policy to cultivate peace and good will with all nations”! Had Mr Polk thus peaceful policy in his view when he ordered Gen Taylor to invade Mexico with an armed force? Let facts decide: The Californias & New Mexico were then attracting territories, and he well understood the designs of his electors and has steadily pursued them.

Mr Polks  
Dupli  
city

If further proofs of the first de signs of the war, were necessary, the message of Mr Polk to the present Congress, would furnish them in the clearest manner; and his olive branch is well understood.

22  
Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind N.E. some snow last night air cold & winter-like; the day cloudy throughout Recent accounts from Mexico state that the Government of that Coun try still has considerable military forces in the field; from which it appears that the war, may contin ue for some time, if our Government persists in its demand for indemnity and held to be just, by democracy Yet Mr Polk must be paid for heating the poker (See page 83 for explanation)~

Mexi  
can  
news

We

- Decr  
22
- Conpla  
gration  
of a  
house  
in Green  
field }
- 23
- A  
scrap  
from  
Mexico }
- Young  
Gener  
als }
- We learn that the dwelling house of Mr. D.W. Alsord of Greenfield took fire, and was consumed last night; the particulars not received
- Conflagrations of this kind, often happen from ill placed stove pipes also much care cannot be bestowed fixing them in wooden buildings, and {—} care should they be in contact with combustibles, or near them. A pipe becomes fuel with soot, and some times takes fire, and falls from the suspending wires, setting the floor on fire. This is particularly the case in long horizontal pipes carried through rooms: and it is a good precaution, to cleanse them, in the fall season, before they are put in use.
- Thursday. M. fair, wind West; the day particularly fair.
- A scrap from a Mexican Anglo paper says Generals Worth & Pillow, and Colo Duncan, have been arrested by order of Gen. Scott, charged with reflecting in an improper manner upon him, the commander in chief of the Army. The charge is founded upon their correspondence, which has fallen into his hands.
- This may be a mere Camp rumor, but we think it not altogether an improbable circumstance. Young Generals, especially those who have not [ ] to regular service, are often too free in their remarks on the commander in Chief Confident of their ability to command, they criticize and condemn the chief for his movements and camp policy, thusly

Decr  
23

creating insubordination in the  
troops, ruinous to an army.

Great  
Generals }  
how they  
repel  
sland  
ers }

In general, great Commanders are  
able to repel slanders from this sub  
ordinates, by a steady and digni  
fied course, as in the case of Wash  
ington, when a cabal endeavored  
to destroy his reputation and place  
Gen. Gates at the head of our army.

By such a course Washington put  
down his opposers, triumphed  
over them, and became the Great  
and good man, who at that time  
was the only one that could lead  
our army with success.

Gen  
Scott }

Gen Scott is undoubtedly a  
good tactician and a brave man,  
but whether he possesses the sub  
lime art of Washington, in man  
aging the human mind, is still  
unknown. In his younger  
days it was thought he had too  
much chivalry for a command  
er; but experience & reflection  
has, as we believe, made him a dis  
inct and scientific commander.

Generals }  
Worth  
and  
Pillow }

But his new-fledged Generals, partaking  
of his former chivalry, may criticize  
him for his systematic operations.

Gen. Worth has seen regular service  
some time prior to the present war;  
but his rapid elevation to his present  
station, may have led him to an  
imprudent course towards his com  
mander.

Of Gen Pillow we know little, but  
have supposed, he was foisted in  
to his office by party influence

without

Decr  
23

Genius  
supplies  
want  
of instruction

without having seen service or  
past through a systematic camp  
of instruction~

Able generals, it is true, are some  
times found among such men,  
but they are those who possess  
extraordinary genius, such as Con  
de, Washington & a few others.  
who have commanded armies. But  
these are rare; and in general  
those who have gone through  
a course of military instruction, are  
to be preferred.

True indeed, we had in our revo  
lutionary war, several distinguished  
Generals, who learned their duty  
in the presence of the enemy; but ~~they~~  
they obtained it, in the first  
instance, by repeated defeats  
General Scott's commanders of divis  
ions and brigades, seem to suppose  
that desperate fighting, in any situa  
tion, embraces the whole art of  
war, and the loss of men seems to  
be of little consequence. A military  
writer says "a battle is the last re  
sort of skillful commanders." This  
cautious mode of warfare is laid  
aside, fortified places are car  
ried by rank assaults and a Wa  
terloo slaughter is but a  
pastime for enlightened repub  
licans of the modern school.

Gen Scotts military fame com  
menced its growth at the battle of Queens  
town in 1812, and continued to flourish  
until the close of the war. At the com

- Decr  
23      mencement of the Mexican war  
he was commander of regular army  
from some cause democracy was  
disposed to detract from his mili  
tary talents. Since his successes  
in Mexico his opponents seem  
disposed to take him into favor.  
But it would not be an uncom  
mon event, were he to find new  
opposers among his subordinate  
generals, who are denizens of his  
fame, and who look to their own  
advancement more than the good  
of their country.
- 24      Friday. M. fair, wind SW;  
day partially fair  
This day Mr Russell & I sold  
our Land on the south side of  
the River at Shelburne falls  
and gave a quit claim deed to  
Horace Benton residing there.
- Convey  
ence of }  
Land }  
at S. falls }
- Our people hold a meeting this  
evening at the Unitarian Church to  
commemorate Christmas, a practice  
recently introduced, from the Epis  
copal Church. Our Puritan fathers  
objected the observance of this cere  
mony, as savoring too much of Church  
forms; but I perceive nothing  
in it repulsive to the most rig  
id orthodoxy; and perhaps it  
may be useful to those who are  
not susceptible of a religion of pure  
sentiment. In our Episcopal  
Churches, it becomes rather disgusting  
from its extravagant show & parade  
which is apt to lead the mind from  
essentials.
- Christ  
mas }  
eve }
- Re  
marks }  
on its }  
observ }  
ance }
- 25      Saturday. M. cloudy, wind S.W.  
the day cloudy  
My friend Joseph Henry Esqr of  
Halifax

Decr.  
25

sends me a bundle of the National Intelligencer, by Gales and Seaton, of Washington, containing much interesting matter. This is an ably conducted paper, and embraces most of the political topics of the day. and particularly the proceedings of Congress. Published thrice a week. at 6 dollars a year Its opposition to the Loco foco Politics is bold and decisive, and the conductors evince a higher order of talents than is generally found in the editorial profession.

Death  
of Mrs  
Catlin }

Our near Neighbor Mr. John Catlin arrived in the evening, from New York, bringing home the corpse of his wife, who died in that City the 24 instant, aged 38 years. She has left three children. her disease a consumption, which is fatal to many of our females, & not a few of our males.

Brief  
notice  
of her  
character }

Mrs. Catlin was a daughter of Judge Fay of New-York City, and had received a polished education which fitted her for an instructress in which she was sometime engaged. In 1842 she and her husband opened a High school at Darion on Log Island sound and at length discontinued, and they removed to Deerfield, where they purchased a homestead on our street. Mrs. Catlin commanded respect by her accomplishments, and her death is lamented by her friends. When genius and worth is thus cut down, we mourn the loss, and seek consolation in the virtues they exhibited.

- Decr  
26      Sunday. M. fair & broken clouds.  
wind W. and air cold; the day  
fair and cold. Mrs. Catlin's re-  
mains were submitted to the arist  
under the Church ceremonies, of which  
she was a member.
- On the }  
loss of }  
friends }      In the loss friends and acquaintances  
nothing more powerfully rouses  
my sensibilities than to behold a  
family of young children be-  
reaved of a tender mother. These  
little innocents do not feel their  
loss, but however kind their  
friends may be, they cannot  
possess all the [    ] and  
patience found in a mother;  
nor is it possible for a father  
however fond of his little ones  
can, afford all the care their  
wants demand. This won-  
derful solicitude of the mother, is  
a kind law of nature, essential  
no doubt, to the human race~
- 27      Monday. M. fair, cold & wind SW;  
the day clear & pretty cold
- Mr. }  
Hitch }  
cocks }  
Call }      A kinsman who resides at Middle-  
by Vt. called on me this day—says he  
saw my son Arthur & his family,  
about a week, at Burlington and all  
were well. and doing well- the road  
in steady progress.
- Life }  
of D. of }  
Wellington }  
ton }      In the National Intelligencer (Wash-  
ton) of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, the following work  
is offered for sale. "Life of Field Marshal  
The Duke of Wellington, by W. H. Maxwell, in  
3 vols octavo, beautifully illustrated with plans  
of battles &c. 4<sup>th</sup> London edition.



- Decr  
27
- Re  
marks  
on }
- Dukes  
age }
- 28
- 29
- A full account of the Life of the Duke of Wellington has been a closed [ ] which it is hoped, the foregoing work has supplied. It may be said perhaps, that as it is written in his lifetime, it may be too flattering, but if this is the case, it is more likely to be accurate ~~than~~ than if delayed until his decease. In running through four editions, any material errors must have met the Duke's eye, & would have been corrected by him or his friends. Under these circumstances, a writer would be suicidal to his reputation were he to admit into his work, erroneous details from carelessness or design~
- The Duke is now in his 79<sup>th</sup> year, and holds a seat in the British House of Lords, and I believe is commander of the British Army. He received his first Commission as Ensign on the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1787. after passing through various grades was commissioned Lieut. Colonel of the 33d. regiment, at about the age of 24. his first service in the field was in 1794 under the Earl of Moira, in the Netherlands. See Clark's Life of the Duke, republished in this country 1814. with a continuation to the taking of Bordeaux, by William Dunlop.~
- Tuesday. M. cloudy- wind S.W.: some snow in the morn, weather cold, and the day cloudy & fair alternately.
- Wednesday M. broken clouds- wind SW and a clear day and pleasant.

Decr  
29  
Congress  
nothing  
import  
ant  
from

Plan  
of Demo  
cracy

Devel  
oped

as yet no decisive steps have been taken in Congress against the War but some resolutions have been introduced, which may call out the strength of parties; but I have little expectation that a majority will be found in both houses, who are disposed to take on honorable course, and do justice to the injured Mexicans. If a peace is conducted it will be on the condition that the Californias and New Mexico are added to United States, arguably to the plan of democracy when Texas was annexed to us, and unequivocally developed when Mr. Polk ordered Gen. Taylor from the Nueces to the Rio Grand. The plan however extends back to the Administration of Mr Monroe in 1824. who in his message to Congress at that time declared ~~said~~ "that no fringe power shall with our consent, be permitted to plant, or establish any new colony or dominion on any part of the North American continent" and this audacity is reiterated by Mr Polk, with the injunction that the principle must be maintained. Had Mr Monroe in his eye, the Californias, New Mexico, the Island of Cuba and other contiguous European possession? Be this as it may, the Governments of Europe are not at a loss, as to the intention of the interfering principle, and readily understand Mr Polk's [ ] when he says "It has ever been our [ ] policy to cultivate peace and

Decr                    and good will with all nations;  
 29                    and this policy has been steady  
                          pursued by me” was he earnest!

30                    Thursday. m. thinly cloudy; wind SW  
                          the day fair & pleasant

Letter                Wrote a Letter to Mrs. Cynthia Arms  
 to Mrs.              of Glen’s Falls requesting her to  
 Arms                procure Grave stones to be placed  
 of Glens            at my Daughter, Fanny’s Grave in  
 Falls                the cemetery of that Village.  
                          Proposed inscription for the headstone:  
                          Fanny Hoyt, wife of David F. Dick  
                          inson Esqr: died January 14<sup>th</sup> 1817,  
                          in her 23d year.  
                          “O’er the cold turf where thy pale relics sleep  
                          Shall fond remembrance oft repair to weep.”<sup>4</sup>  
                          I left it optional with Mrs. Arms  
                          to insert the two lines of poetry,  
                          or omit them—My Son to defray  
                          the expense, and to visit Glens Falls  
                          about the 18<sup>th</sup> of May, to place the stones.  
                          if his business will permit. For  
                          reflection on monuments for the dead  
                          see page 96.

31                    Friday. M. cloudy, foggy and  
                          rainy—wind SW. the day  
                          continued foggy with some rain  
                          This day closes 1847 and com  
                          mences my 83d year an age not  
                          exceeded by more than two or  
                          three persons in our village  
                          or in the town. Born Decem  
                          ber 31, 1765, at the time of  
                          the

my                    }  
 birth                }

---

<sup>4</sup> Quote from an unknown author, which often found its way until tombstones in New England. The same quote can be found the stone of Fanny Forward in the Albany Road Burying Ground, who died in 1799.

Decr

31

Early

recol

lections

the opposition to the British Stamp  
act, my first distinct recollect  
 tion of events is what is called  
 the massacre in Boston 1770.

A printed hand bill, posted up in  
 my father's bar room, beginning  
 with these lines-

"Awake! Awake! my muse,  
 Awake O Earth & tremble at the news;  
 containing a view of Kings Street &  
 Capt Preston's Ground, is still on my  
 memory; as are nearly all trans  
 actions of the revolutionary war.

If my memory is now impaired it does  
 not effect the recollection of former events  
 that came under my observation~

Events

of 1847

unpro

piteous

During the last year Mr Polk's In  
vasion, and war with Mexico,  
 has commanded much of our atten  
 tion; and future prospects promise  
 nothing favorable, until the Exe  
 cutive branch of the Government  
 is taken from the Misrule of the  
 present democratic party.

Re

flec

tions

But let us hope that another year  
 will correct existing errors, and  
 restore a majority of the people in  
 all the state, to the principles of morality, justice,  
 honor, & humanity. With these vir  
 tues, and a study pursuit of the  
 peaceful arts, the United States  
 may become a great and happy  
 nation, where the arts and scien  
 ces shall flourish, the condition of  
 man be ameliorated, and the wise  
 and good shall delight to dwell. By  
 an opposite course all these blessings  
 will be reversed, our national  
 character tarnished, and sunk  
 to a low point in the scale of nations

End of No 21

Sketch-Bok No. 22  
 from January 1<sup>st</sup> 1848 to  
 January 1<sup>st</sup> 1849.

---

1848  
 Janu }  
 ary 1<sup>st</sup> }

Intro }  
 ducto }  
 ry re }  
 marks }

Apolo }  
 gy }

Polk's }  
 war }

Saturday. M. cloudy, wind  
 S.W.; foggy, and some rain  
 last night; the snow much  
 reduced, and our street nearly  
 bare. The day continued cloudy & foggy.  
 In continuing my journal  
 and sketches, it is my inten  
 tion to notice such ocuran  
 ces and events as I deem  
 important and interesting;  
 and as I write in a sort of  
off hand style & not for  
 for the public, shall express  
 my thoughts & opinions in un  
 studied language, resting satis  
 fied, if any of my friends who  
 may ~~well~~ look them over shall  
 comprehend my meaning.  
 In many instances it will be seen  
 that I have carelessly omitted let  
 ters in words, and in others faulty  
 orthography. In general I aim to follow  
 Mr Webster, and whether his ortho  
 raphy is the best, I care not. With me  
 it is enough that we have a standard  
 to appeal to; and his definitions  
 I believe are generally considered as  
 correct.

In my notices of events of Mr  
 Polk's

Jany  
1

Polk's vandalic war with Mexico, I shall endeavor to give them the [ ] [ ] they deserve.

General  
Scotts  
opera  
tions }

Gen. Scott's operations may be strickly military, but I cannot avoid remarking that some of his battles have been rash, and at tended with unnecessary loss of men, which a prudent com mander would have avoided. The mode of attacking strong forti fications, with troops recently brought from their peaceful scene of domestic homes, is novel, and savors to much of Napoleon and his impetuous Subordinates. who considered the loss of men of no consequence, provided a battle was won.

This nov  
el mode  
of attack }

However commendable such dis regard of human life may be, in a defensive war, in one waged for the conquest of a neighboring nation. which asks only for its existence under its established form, it is deserving of no more respect than the exploits of Attila & his hords, when they rushed from the wild region of the north, to de vastate & plunder the Roman Em pire. In such war, General Scott will look in vain for an addition to his military fame.

Hi famed  
assailed }

Already, if we may rely on recent ac counts from Mexico, his reputation as a commder, has been assailed, by two of his subordinate generals, though we are inclined to believe, without sufficient grounds, for the support of their [ ].

Jany 1 our down hill course	<p>In continuing the journal we shall also, keep an eye on the <u>down-hill</u> course of the federal government, while in the hands of democracy, and notice the utopian schemes brought forward under the pretence of political <u>improvements</u>~</p> <p>To the term <u>democracy</u> we have no objections, provided it is used in its legitimate sense, a Government by the people; but when used to designate a political party, whose object is to overthrow the salutary rules and institutions which the wisdom of former times found necessary to adopt, it presents a charade which no patriot can esteem. In this last sense I use the term when I speak of it, as reproachful. But let it be understood that a <u>portion</u> of the democratic party is not held in this light, but as [    ] by demagogues, who are regardless of the public welfare and would prostrate every thing that abstracts their wild schemes.</p> <p>At the commencement of our Federal government, Washington &amp; his co patriots, were esteemed and in their hands. prosperity &amp; happiness flowed in upon the people in all parts of the Union. At that time the parties were called <u>Federalists</u></p>
The term deo cracy	
Its defi nition	
Delu sions of dema gogues	
Wash ingtons time	
Practices then	

Jany 1 Effects of the French Revolu tion	
Wash ington's charac ter as sailed	
Politi cal corrupt tion	

and Anti-Federalists, but the latter was small & soon gave up their opposition to the Consti tuion; but at the commence ment of the French Revolution a flame was kindled in our Country which has continued to the pre sent time, and the name of Anti-Federalists is changed to that of Democrats, as more popular During the latter part of President Washington's administration, his cha racter was assailed, his military talents denied, and all that was excellent ~~admirable~~ in his life repudiated- To those acquaint ed with the history of that time it is needless to recite the astound ing facts. But they are un known to a great portion of the young at this time, and the origin of democracy is kept out of view.

In continuing our journal these facts shall not be smothered by designing demagogues, who tell their dupes, that they are Federal lies. That corruption in so high a degree as we now see it, should have prevailed in all parts of our union, can be explained only from the fact that the people have lost their good sense, and political virtue has sunk to a low level



Jany	}	<u>Sunday</u> . m. cloudy wind N.
2		and the day cloudy throughout
Ground		The snow has now left the
free		ground entirely level and winter
from	}	seems to have departed. At
snow		sun set the clouds broke away,
		& the Sun's "everlasting
		light" gave us a short cheer;
Sun's	}	"Whence are thy beams, O Sun!
ever		thy everlasting light?" <sup>5</sup>
lasting		But thou art, perhaps like
light		me, for a season; thy years will
	}	have an end." <sup>6</sup>
		This prediction of <u>Ossian</u>
		is opposed to the result of
		Laplace's calculation, which
Re	}	claims to have demonstrated
marks		the <u>Stability</u> of the solar system
on		The poet [ ] from analogy;
		the mathematician from the prin
	}	ciples of gravitation & geometry.
		But before the stability of the solar
		system is proved to be <u>eternal</u>
		it becomes necessary to show
Laplace's	}	that the laws of nature shall
calcu		never deviate from their prst
lation		design. The same power which
		created the laws, may for vain
	}	purposes, beyond our comprehen
		sion, alter these; but who can
		say that the laws of gravitation are
		<u>inherent</u> in matter. The machinery
	}	of the solar system and indeed that of
		the universe, is no doubt perfect; but who
		will say that it will now be attend
		with [ ] of the Creator?

<sup>5</sup> James Macpherson's *Ossian's Address to the Sun*

<sup>6</sup> James Macpherson's *Poems of Ossian, Carthon*

Jany	}	<u>Monday</u> . M. fair, wind N.E.
3		day fair & pleasant
Call of		Last evening my friend L.B.
Mr. Lin		Lincoln of Hingham, gave me
coln &	}	a call; he and his family well.
notice		He informs me that my ingenious
of C.O.		friend Charles O. Boutell was re
Boutelle)		cently at that place, on the trigo
		nometircal survey of the Sea coast,
		and that he was to remain
		in that quarter during the wint
		er. I was fearful he was employed
		on the unhealthy coast of the
		southern states. As a Geodesic
		surveyor his talents are of a
		high order; This prosperity adds
		to my enjoyment. His survey of
		the sea coast is a noble acquisition to
		our science. It would also be grati
		fying to hear from my old friend
Simeon	}	<u>Simeon Borden</u> late trigonometrical
Borden		surveyor of this Commonwealth, who
Esqr		has my best wishes for his prosperity.
		If I have found among my friends
		men of science whom I have held in
		bright estimation, I have also found
		others, though of less attainments,
		yet not less deserving of respect. For
		associates give me men of enlarged
		view, warm hearts, & social feelings, and
		I [ ] not for the applause of those
		who are <u>called</u> Greats, merely
		from their supposed excellence
		in some astute profession.
		But the esteem of <u>truly great men</u>
		is a gem of inestimable value, and
		should be sought for by All; but that it
		be remembered, that <u>goodness</u> as well as
		<u>greatness</u> are necessary to constitute the
		Great man.

Re  
marks  
on the  
value  
of friends

Jany 4	<p><u>Tuesday</u>. M. fair, wind NE. the day fair &amp; cloudy and wind variable. The aspect of the ground is similar to that of Spring—not a patch of snow to be seen. Is this caused by the internal heat of the earth or a flow of the air from the torrid zone in the upper region of the atmosphere, producing a 7 % rotary motion, as suggest in some of my preceding numbers. That such a motion exists, there can be little doubt. This gyration of the atmosphere affords an easy explanation of the sudden changes from extreme cold, to a warm air we often observe in the winter season; and [    ] seems to be the necessary consequence of hydrostatic laws.</p>
State of the weath er }	
Theo reti cal re marks }	
5	<p><u>Wednesday</u>. m cloudy wind NE the day mostly cloudy &amp; wind SW Our state Legislature assembles at Boston, this day. Of the Senate only 17 members, members of the Senate are decided by the people, while the House is supposed to consist of about two thirds <u>conservatives</u> or <u>Whigs</u>. As a Whig Governor is elected by the people, and in a joint ballot of the two houses will be Whig, the Senate whose the 23 vacancies are filled will be Whigs also; in all all the three branches. the second: [    ] the 17 members elected in the Senate are Whigs, that branch will all be same</p>
Meeting of our Legisla ture }	
Its polit ical char acter }	

Jany  
5  
The }  
War }

But as the war power is intrusted to Congress, the unjust invasion of Mexico may be continued: And indeed, there seems to be a growing disposition in that body, to conquer the whole of Mexico, which was not, at first, the plan of democracy; this object being to acquire possession of the Californias and north Mexico.

Duty }  
of the }  
body }

Our Legislature, it is hoped, will express its views on the injustice of the war, and show that northern republicans have not lost all sense of right, and kind feelings towards neighboring nations, striving for existence under their own governments.

Demo }  
crats of }  
Massa }  
chusetts }

In giving aid to the present war the democrats of Massachusetts evince a singular character—a character hostile to the rights of man, as well as to their own interests, and should they persist in their error, they will find that to be prosperous & happy, national virtue and justice, is the only sure basis. That ambitious men should be found in the state who would invert the order of things, is not strange; but that they should be able to deceive and mislead a large portion of the honest people, is mysterious.

Let these leaders cease ~~their evil~~ [ — ] [     ] and, peace, order & happiness would reign through out our land.

Jany 5	The legislative sessions we might suppose would be short; but much local business generally obstructs and prompts for rail-roads are still rife through, we believe, no new charters are necessary within the state for public convenience. The project for one from Greenfield, up Deerfield river to Hoosack mountain, through which a <u>tunnel</u> is to be cut 4 or 5 miles to Adams, & thence to be extended to Troy on the Hudson, is too wild a project, to be entertained for a moment.
The Session }	
R.R. Char }	
Mili tia }	Other business may come before the legislature. We have heard of a Committee, appointed at the last session, to report on the condition of the militia, but know not the object. That our militia is in an unprosperous state cannot be denied; but as the power of regulating it resides in Congress, any State efforts to moddle it, may be useless. The old plan of making every able bodied man a soldier, must be given up, and a select body provided, and appointed on the several states~
6	<u>Thursday</u> . M. fair, wind W; last night a snow fell an inch or two deep & a brisk wind prevailed, the day fair and cold~
Death of Col. Ashley	Died this morning, Col. Thomas Ashley of our village, aged 71. Grand son of the Revd. Jonathan Ashley & son of Doct. E. Ashley of this town. Col. Ashley was a farmer,; & noticed for the neat manner he carried on his business; Possessed of a mechanical genius, he kept a

- Jany  
 6  
 His mechanical genius } sort of work-shop, furnished with the tools proper for repairing implements of husbandry; or for constructing them on emergencies—a practice affording much aid to the farmer, when professional workmen are not to be found. He commanded a regiment in the 4<sup>th</sup> division of militia, and studied the tactics of the parade, and has left several industrious sons and a wife~
- 7  
 Letter from my Daughter } Friday M. fair, wind N.E; the young David Bryant from Chicopee falls, brings me a letter from daughter Isabella—all well. Third day of the Legislative session, and yet show nothing direct from its proceedings. This is tantalizing to those residing in the vicinity of rail roads.
- 8  
 Clock cleaned by } Saturday. m. cloudy & foggy; wind NW: snow falls air cold; the day cloudy & cold. Employed Derrick C Hawes of Dummerston, to clean my clock, which is subject to quieten in cold weather. He says the machinery is in good order and the stoppage occurring to foulness, and want of good oil~
- Letter from Glens falls } Evening. Received a Letter from Lewis L. Arms of Glens Falls in answer to one to his mother of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. concerning a pair of grave stones for my Daughter Fanny's grave at that place. Mr Arms has obtained from Mr B[ ], their stone cutter, who he says is a good worker

- Jany  
8
- Price  
of Grave  
stones  
at
- workman, the following  
terms: The stones of while marble;  
the name of the deceased to  
be put on in raised letters.  
A stone 4 feet 6 inches long, & 1 foot 9 wide  
for 16 dollars.  
One 3 foot 8 inches + 1 f. 9 in. for 12 dollars  
The above to cover the expense of  
placing the stones. The two lines of  
poetry sent to Mrs. Arms, with the  
inscription, would perhaps, add to  
the expense about one dollar. An  
additional expense of 2 dollars, he  
thinks, would add much to the  
appearance of the stone, by putting  
on at the distance of perhaps one  
inch from the edge, a fluting or bead  
ing, which gives the effect of a  
panel, on which is placed the  
inscription; the panel thus made  
appear distinct and perfect, as it  
does plain & substantial. Offers fur  
ther assistance in the matter.
- 9
- Sunday. m. partially fair, wind S.W.  
some snow fell last night; the  
day much the same & cold~  
The weather is now pretty severe &  
calls for ample supplies of fuel and  
[ ] and let us recollect  
the poor families who are now in  
want of both. In this I fear we  
neglect our duty. O Poverty! Thou  
art a bitter pill, especially in cold  
climates where man is seen in his  
most miserable condition, if without  
property.
- 10
- Monday. M fair & cold, wind N.W.  
the same through the day.  
Wrote a Letter to Lewis L. Arms  
of Glens Falls, authorizing him to  
procure

Jany  
 10  
 Letter  
 to Lew  
 is L Arms  
 Glens  
 falls

procure a pair of Gravestones  
 for the grave of my Daughter Fanny  
 in the cemetery of that place; the  
 price not to exceed 19 dollars, to be  
 paid on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of May  
 next, my son Arthur to be at  
 the falls at that time, or before  
 to place the stones and pay the  
 money for them~  
 In the afternoon David Bryant  
 our visitor left us for Greenfield  
 where he is to return to Springfield  
 by rail-road.~  
 Of the proceedings of our General  
 Court we have nothing, excepting  
 on the first day of the session; and  
 Congress proceeding are equally tar  
 dy. The war with Mexico was  
 commenced for the conquest of territory  
 and nothing short of that ~~will~~  
 will satisfy, our war hawks  
 To look for a magnanimous  
 course in a majority of that body  
 is in vain. Delinde est Carthogo  
 is the growing motto. Nor is con  
 quest to stop here. No foreign  
 nation is to obtain any new pos  
 sessions in North America. See  
 Monroes & Polks messages to Congress  
Cuba is the next bait, and  
 the Island of Jamaica is within  
 the scent of the pack.  
 Tuesday M. fair & very cold, and wind  
 N.; the day fair  
 Thermometer this morn said  
 to be 18 to 20 degrees below zero.  
 This is like the winters of olden  
 times, when the snow were from

Gen. }  
 Court }  
 & Con }  
 gress }  
 11  
 Severe }  
 cold }



- Jany  
11
- two to three feet in depth, and frequently drifted into heaps which in tirely blacked the roads and rendered them impossible.~
- Letter from D.S.Hoyt } Recd. a Letter from David S. Hoyt of the U.S. Army, in the City of Mexico, containing thermometrical observations, on the weather there, through the month of October, with notices of the winds and clouds. The observations were made at sun rise, noon & sunset, at the Citadel of the City of Mexico. He serves in the artificer corps of ordnance, in the siege train. The highest point during the month was 79°, and the lowest 39. Average of month, at noon, 70°, 16; at sun rise 52 by Fahrenheit scale.
- This young man has a taste for science and his acquirements, I think, are much in advance of many of the officers of the Army. I wish he were engaged in a noble cause, the defense of his country. Of the operations of the army he gives no details; the duty of a soldier, being implicit obedience to orders (Letter [ ] ]
- 12
- Letter to my son } Mailed a Letter to son Arthur at Burlington, giving the arrangements made with Mr. Lewis L. Arms of Glens falls, for gravestones.
- Gov ernors message } Gov. Briggs message to Legislature, is inserted in the Springfield Daily of this day. It was delivered yesterday from a printed copy, by his Excellency. And contains good sense, and source matter; the war is [ ] in its nefarious character.

- Jany  
 13  
 Arrest  
 of Genls  
 Worth  
 & Pillow }
- by Gen  
 Scott }
- Re  
 marks }
- 14
- History  
 of Shrews  
 bury }
- General  
 Ward }
- Thursday M. cloudy, wind NW &  
 air cold. and day cloudy  
 Reports in the papers say Generals  
 Worth & Pillow, and Col. Duncan  
 are under arrests, and to be tried by  
 Court martials at Vera Cruz; and that  
 Gen. Scott is to be recalled from the  
 command of the army in Mexico.  
 That Mr Polk and his Cabinet  
 are willing to part with Gen. Scott  
 is pretty clear, since he is not pop  
 ular with the President & his party,  
 who want a commander less sys  
 thematic in his operations and more  
 adapted to the wild chivalry of  
 western volunteers. A military  
 machine constructed by democra  
 cy is necessarily liable to confus  
 ion and dashing of its parts.  
 Worth & Pillow may be brave  
 but at the same time unfit for  
 commanders of large bodies; &  
 of Gen. Scott expects to add to  
 his fame while under the dic  
 tation of the present adminis  
 tration, he will be disappointed  
Friday. M cloudy, wind NW; some  
 rain fell before noon. the day con  
 tinued the same.  
History of the Town of Shrewsbury  
 by Andrew H. Ward 1 Vol. 8 vo. pp  
 508. printed at Boston 1847, including  
 an exclusive Family Register.  
 In this work is a short Biography of  
 Gen. Artemus Ward, born in that town  
 Nov. 27, 1727 graduated at Cambridge  
 1748. He was an officer in the militia  
 under the provincial government. In  
 1758 Lt. Colonel in the regiment of foot  
 commanded by Col. William Williams  
 raised for the invasion of Canada,  
 and

Jany  
 14

In the  
 Camp  
 aign  
 of 1758

At  
 Ticon  
 dero  
 ga

Lord  
 Howe  
 killed

Not at  
 the attack  
 on the  
 French  
 lines

and was in the attack on Ticonde  
 roga in 1758, under General Abercrom  
 bie, From some loose leaves of a jour  
 nal kept by him, the writer gives the  
 following: "Great irregularity prevailed  
 among the troops (1600 regular and  
 provincials) while on their march  
 from Lake George to Ticonderoga,  
 The way was woody & otherwise dif  
 ficult; the army marched in four  
 columns; the guides being unskillful  
 the troops were soon bewildered, the  
 columns broke, marching & countermarch  
 ing, became general, and "all was  
confusion, confusion! In this disor  
 derly manner the army preceded on  
 its march, column falling upon col  
 umn, and driving before them and  
 killing many of an advanced guard.  
 of the enemy. An ill concerted at  
 tack was next made upon the fort;  
 after 4 hours of hard fighting Gen  
 Abercrombie ordered a retirement. Nearly  
 2000 of the regulars were killed  
 wounded, or taken prisoners. Among  
 the former was the gallant Lord  
Howe, who had command of a regi  
 ment, The fort was defended by  
 cannon & manned by four or five  
 thousand men." The rough abattis  
 in front of the work (about 100  
 yards) is mentioned.  
 In this account the common er  
 ror, that Lord Howe was killed at  
the works is embraced: This gallant  
 officer fell in a skirmish, about  
 half a mile from the north end  
 of Lake George, on the day the army  
 landed. and about 2 ½ miles from  
 the French lines at Ticonderoga,  
 near the present valley of Alexandria  
 This appears to be the only campaign in which  
 Gen. Ward served, prior to 1775. at Cambridge  
 His

Jany  
 14

Gen  
 Wards  
 appoint  
 ment in  
 Conti  
 nental  
 Army }

His  
 Death }

15

Fuel  
 price  
 of }

Plant  
 ing of  
 trees }

His appointment by the provincial Congress, to the command of the New England forces, placed him in an arduous station, in which he continued until George Washington was appointed by the Continental Congress, to the command of their army, when Gen. Ward was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> major General in that army, On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1775. In April 1776 he requested Congress to grant him a discharge from his command, on account of bodily infirmity, but was continued in the services ~~command~~ until the close of that year; and subsequently was in various offices in the civil department. He died Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 1800, aged 73 years. Gen. Ward's orderly-book is preserved, and from it may be seen his police of the army while under his command~

Saturday M. cloudy with rain, which prevailed last night, wind W; the day cloudy & foggy & some rain. Fine wood has now become an expensive article. We pay 2 dollar 75 cents per cord for dry 4 feet wood delivered at the door and it will continue to rise in the price as the country increases its inhabitants. One century here, the hills & mountains will be stripped of their woods, and as no ample beds of fossil coal are found in New-England, fuel wood must be an article difficult to procure. Coal from a distance must be expensive; and it becomes a question whether forest trees may not propagate by planting & transplanting and a supply of fuel ensconced~

During

Jany  
15

Reflec  
tions on  
the state  
of affairs

great  
talents  
rejected

During the past week, we have seen little of the proceedings of our General Court, or of Congress. From within have we any regular chain of communication, though rail roads and telegraph's are plenty. Of late there seems to be some irregularity in the mails, and appear from Amherst is 3 or 4 days on the passage. From Congress we look for nothing [ ] to the patriot, for we believe Mr. Polk's war will be continued until Mexico is annihilated, or reduced to vassalage by the party now in the ascendancy. Having the public purse in their hands, they will stop at nothing short of the conquest first planned by the party, and put in operation by Mr. Polk, We have indeed men in Congress, who wail at injustice, but in vain will they attempt to stop the current of corruption which now sweeps with relentless fury, the liberty & rights of a weak nation, and others of a similar character, may hence learn their fate. We have our Websters, our Calhouns, our Clays or Galatins & other patriots, who expose the vandalism of the war. But who are these patriots? In the eye of democracy, their honor, their rectitude, their greatness are but so many marks of their unfitness for high places, in a democratic government, in which talent is repudiated, and cringing submission to the multitude, is substituted.

16

Sunday. m. fair, wind NW; the day fair & mild, very clear wind NE Last night the ice in our river broke up by a rise of water. Contrast the temperature

Jany  
16  
The }  
prob }  
lem }

temperature with that of Monday  
last and the night following. and  
then comes the problem why this dif  
ference while the sun has about the  
same position in the heavens? Will my  
hypothesis of a gyrating motion in the at  
mosphere solve it?

17

Monday m cloudy; soon broken  
wind NE: the day fair and  
wind changed to SW. The snow is now  
diminished, especially on the hills  
having a western aspect.

18

Tuesday m. fair, wind SW; soon  
cloudy with some snow gust &  
alternate sun shine.

19

Wednesday. M. fair, wind W; cold  
air, the day clear & rather cold.  
We have little snow at this time  
and what carriages run instead of  
sleighs

20

Thursday M partially cloudy,  
wind S, & fluctuating: the day

John  
Q. Adams }  
on ma }  
sonry }  
a new }  
work }

My esteemed friend Henry Gassett of  
Boston, sends me Letters on the Mason  
ic Institution. By John Quincy Adams  
a handsome 8 vo. vol. printed at Boston 1847.  
In the Preface of 40 pages we have a hist  
ory of freemasonry—its abduction & murder  
of William Morgan, and the manner in  
which the institution triumphed over the  
Courts & Laws of the state of New-York.  
The work consists principally of letters from  
Mr Adams, to individuals on the subject of  
masonry. The publication is timely; for the  
monster begins to raise it head, conning  
the inconsiderate & superficial young men  
in the state. We have lately seen a notifica  
tion in the paper for a meeting of masons

a time }  
ly pub }  
lication }

Jany at Northampton, to form a {—} {—} Royal Arch chapter! “Tell it not in  
 20 Gath”<sup>7</sup>

Effects } of the people of Northampton and the  
 to revive } vicinity, we are disposed to speak  
 masonry } with respect; but should they  
 be inclined to patronage such a  
 crudity, at this day, we must  
 withhold our esteem, and pro  
 nounce them far below the im  
 provements we had flattered our  
 selves they had arrived at.

Re } Point me to a town where freema  
 marks } sonry is now held in esteem, and I will show  
 on } a community among which general  
 knowledge is at a low ebb, moral ob  
 ligations but Lilliputian ties, and their  
 religion no better than the dregs of ancient mythology.

21 Friday. M. cloudy, wind S. but  
 but variable, the day cloudy.

Death } We have that Mr Samuel Catlin of Pe  
 of Saml. } umka, Alabama, formerly of this town,  
 Catlin } died suddenly at that place a few days  
 ago, aged 58. He was bred a  
 farmer, became a trader but being  
 imfortunate in the business, emigrated  
 to Alabama, where he was engaged  
 in various business, and I am in  
 formed was respected by the people

22 Saturday m. fair, wind W; PM clou  
 dy & wind SW.

The } Another week has elapsed without  
 past } hearing of any decisive action of Con  
 week } gress on the Mexican war. But it appears  
 Mr Polks course is not entirely [ ]  
 out of sight. Calls are made for information on cer  
 tain points, which he declines giving, and no  
 doubt [ ] this plain reason-they will not bear the light!

---

<sup>7</sup> 2 Samuel 1:20

Jany  
 22  
 Plan of  
 the war }  
 Its pro  
 gress }  
 Bait  
 laid  
 for Con  
 gress }  
 Eagerly  
 seized }

His object in the invasion of Mexico was well known to the party who elected him; they had an eye on the extensive territory west of Texas & Mr Polk was the agent to carry out the scheme, and receive possession of the premises. The first step in the process, after the Annexation of Texas, was war with Mexico; Gen. Taylor with a regular force to advance to the Nueces, which it was hoped, would effect object; but finding the Mexicans not disposed to contest that position, Gen. Taylors force was ordered to advance to the Rio Grand & fortify a post on Mexican ground. This it was known, would be resisted, and of course the desired war produced. But her[e] a difficulty was presented, Mr Polk knew that he had no constitutional power to make war, without the consent & concurrence of Congress. To remove this difficulty he, or his cabinet, contrived a sham to enlist that body in his scheme. Gen. Taylor was to make his advance without a supply of provisions, and of course be placed in a critical position. Congress he knew would not suffer the troops to starve or be captured by the Mexicans. The bait took, and 50 thousand volunteers were directed to be raised, & 10 millions of dollars to begin the game, and "conquer a peace". Thus Congress by a blind course, fell into the democratic plan contrived for the advancement of the war.

At that time the accession of the California & new Mexico was considered as secured  
 and



- Jany 22 and soon after, Mr Polk's agricultural regiment was raised, & shipped round Cape horn to take possession of the desired territory
- The } But the Mexicans proving [     ],  
indem } the invasion was continued southerly of  
nity } Rio Grand to other points of Mexico, and now  
a claim is set up, for the whole of Mexi  
co, as an indemnity for the full swoop.  
At any rate, Mr Polk and his party must  
be paid for heating the poker (Page 83 No. 21)
- 23 Sunday. M. cloudy, but soon fair, with N  
E wind, and fair day; very little  
snow on the ground & weather moder  
ate.  
In the proceedings of Congress it is stated  
that Mr. Hale of N.H., presented the petition  
2900 Unitarian Clergymen and laymen,  
asking the withdrawal of our troops and  
the appointment of Commissions to treat  
for peace with Mexico. (Wednesday Jany 12<sup>th</sup>)  
Unitarians believe that injustice & immorality  
are incompatible with true religion.  
Little useful effect can be expected  
from petitions, unless they become so  
numerous as to be felt in the ballot  
boxes, where they become powerful  
for good or evil.
- Petition }  
of Unit }  
arians to }  
Congress }
- Re }  
marks }
- 24 Monday. M. fair, wind NE. and the  
day very clear, calm and pleasant,  
and night pretty cold.

Jany  
24

Rattle  
snakes  
battle  
with }

The Rattle Snake (Crotalus Horridus  
At page 92 No 21 (of my sketches) I have  
have noticed this reptile and given  
some account of its habits, and stated  
that these serpents was once plenty in  
our woods. In a communication  
from Dr Stephen W Williams to the Med  
ical & Surgical Journal (Boston) Jany 5  
1848, I notice the following in rela  
tion to the former prevalence of the reptile in  
this town said to be taken from the  
archives of the Mass Historical Society.

Particu  
lars of }

A Mr. Jonathan Hawks was plough  
ing not far from the mountain  
called sugar Loaf, near the ferry landing  
to Sunderland. He saw a number of  
turkeys coming into the field; he got his  
gun in order to kill them, but before he  
was ready the turkeys made off up towards  
the mountain, and as he was advancing  
up the same, he was surrounded by a  
number of rattle snakes; and he being of  
a heroic spirit, and man like both to  
turn his back and run, though surround  
ed by such spiteful & malignant serpents  
(as those serpents are the most spiteful  
that crawl upon the ground) he sat  
down his gun (as they had none) and took a stick  
that lay handy, stands his ground and  
fights them, kills 34 of the serpents on  
the spot; the rest were so frightened, at  
the valor & activity of the man, that they  
were glad to quit the field of battle, and  
hide themselves in the holes under the  
rocks, and leave the hens in the pos  
session of the field. He took 33 eggs out  
of those he killed at that time; he destroyed  
67 of these serpents. Of course killed 34  
with his wooden weapon.

Num  
ber  
killed }

Jany  
24

Habits  
of the  
reptile

Destory  
ed by  
old hun  
ters

Reflec  
tions  
on their  
creation

Our mountain Rattle snakes congre  
gate in dens & cavities of the rocks during  
the winter season, and remain in a  
sort of dormant state until the warm  
season approaches, when they come  
out to bask in the sun's rays, and  
range at some distance. Mr. Hawks  
must have approached one of these  
dens, and his slaughter must have  
relieved the neighboring settlers ~~from~~  
from an inconvenience of no trif  
fling character.

Other haunts of these reptiles were  
known in our woods, generally in  
the greenstone range in our eastern  
woods. The old hunters, I am informed  
often dragged them from their dens, by  
implements prepared for that purpose  
and killed many. They have now be  
come nearly extinct in our town~

In the creation of these poisonous rep  
tiles, we do not readily pursue the economy  
of nature; but as all creation is the  
work of infinite wisdom, we must suppose  
they answer some useful purpose in  
the scale of being, in which so much  
benevolence is is displayed, as well as  
throughout the Universe.

But if human happiness be the great  
end, The Poet inquires:

"But errs not nature from this gracious end,  
From burning suns when livid deaths descend  
When earthquakes swallow or when tempest sweep  
Towns to one grave, whole nations to the deep?  
No ('tis replied) the first Almighty cause,  
Sets not by partial, but by gen'ral laws."<sup>8</sup>

Until man can fathom the designs  
of the Creator, it would be rash to say  
imperfections is seen in his works.

The Poet dons the subject with these truths:

"All nature is but art, unknown to thee;  
All chance direction, which thou can not see;  
All discord harmony, not understood;  
All partial evil, universal good."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

Jany 25	<p><u>Thursday</u>. M. cloudy, wind SW, and the day the same.</p> <p>We learn that our Adjutant General Oliver, has resigned his office and that Capt. _____ of _____ is appointed in his place.</p> <p>Of General Oliver I have entertained a favorable opinion, and though him well qualified for the office he sustained But his resignation excites no surprise; for I was well convinced that the military machine of this Commonwealth, was too defective to attract the attention of an officer of military science. The present system I consider an improvement of the old which attempted to make every able bodied man a soldier but it is still miserably defective. The time allowed for instruction is totally inadequate and the instructors, in general, unacquainted with military science and the first principles of tactics. Annual encampments, by regiments or battalions, attended by well taught tacticians, under the pay of government place the select corps of militia on a respectable footing, and render a large standing force, in time of peace unnecessary. But before an adequate plan can be adopted, there must be a total change in the public mind, in relation to military discipline.</p> <p>The victories won in the Mexican war, by undisciplined corps of volunteers, will no doubt strengthen the belief of [ ] [ ] thinkers, that discipline, as preparation to war, is unnecessary, and that a blind chivalrous spirit is all that is important in war. Had our undisciplined corps been first led against <u>disciplined veterans</u> such as were commanded by Wellington and Bonaparte, the results of the battles would have been of quite a different character: and [ ] that something more than <u>wild chivalry</u> is necessary in war.</p>
Resigna tion of our Adju tant Gen eral }	
Remarks on }	
Defects of the militia system }	
wild volunteer spirit }	

Jany 26      Wednesday m cloudy, wind NW.  
the day generally cloudy, wind variable from NW to S. and thence to N. and indications of rain.~

Mr Adams letters on masonry } I have just completed the perusal of John Q. Adams' Letters on the Institution of freemasonry. The work was recently published at Boston by patriotic individuals, for gratuitous distribution—A noble act. Upwards of 20 years

The Morgan murder little known to the young } have elapsed since the murder of Wm Morgan at Fort Niagara, by the institution; and a race of young has arisen who know little of the outrage nor will they readily conceive that so corrupt an institution should have existed in our country. The facts were all known to Mr. Adams & others who took pains to collect the truth, soon after the murder. The Introduction to the work, as well

Mr. Adams knows the facts } as the letters of Mr Adams, give a pretty full account of the institution. and its transactions. History it is believed, will not be silent on the subject, though it will be a dark chapter in our annals.

In no part of Mr. Adams' life has he displayed more energy & patriotism than in the suppression of this anomalous and pernicious institution, which by its [ ] influence, had spread over every part of our country; and well nigh penetrated the dearest rights of the people. And nothing short of murder, in obedience to its bloody oaths, would have roused the people to their danger.

Secrecy the basis of masonry } The designs of the Brotherhood were secrets; nor was it known to the [ ] [ ], even or to the members of the first & second [ ] in the ladder to which power the combination had acquired in every State of our Union though now and then its orators confiding

Jany 26		in its supremacy, imprudently portrayed its features so strikingly exact, as not to be mistaken by ordinary intellect.
Masonic orators	}	One of their orators Wm. F Brainard, in an address to the craft in July 1825, at New London, presented the <u>power</u> of the institution, in the following undisguised language, "It (Freemasonry) is powerful
[ ] [ ] of masonic power	}	it comprises men of rank, wealth office and talent, in power and out of power, and that in almost every place where power is of any importance. And it comprises among other classes of the community to the lowest, in large numbers, active men
Mr Brainard's development of it.	}	invited together, and capable of being directed by the efforts of others so as to have the force of concert throughout the civilized world. They are <del>too</del> dishabituated too with the means of knowing one another, and the means of <u>co-operating</u> , in the <u>desk</u> , on the <u>legislative hall</u> , <u>on the bench</u> , in every gathering of business, in every party of pleasure, in every domestic circle, in peace and in war, among enemies and friends, in one place as well as in another."
Effects of	}	Believing this to be a true representation of the power of the institution; timorous men began to think that the only security of their rights, was in becoming members of the craft; and when some of the murderers of Morgan were brought before the Courts in the state of New York, it was soon seen that Mr. Brainard had not overstated the power of the midnight fraternity.
Its triumph in the Courts of N York	}	But its power in the New England states, though granted was at length put down by the people, and the enactment

Jany  
26  
Less in }  
N.En  
gland }

of a law in Massachusetts and I be  
live in Vermont, against extra-judicial  
oaths. From that time to the pre  
sent, the craft have generally sus  
pended the exhibitions of their [    ]  
[    ], and remained in “digni  
fied silence”. But a substitute un  
der the name of odd fellowship, has  
recently spread to a considerable  
extent, which if less pernicious, is  
not without danger to our politi  
cal institutions. Mr Adams let  
ters, and the accompanying intro  
duction, has appeared at a favor  
able time, and it is hoped may  
enlighten the people on the horrible  
institution of freemasonry as it  
once existed in the United States.  
The Gentlemen who have been at  
the expence of the publication, are rich  
ly entitled to the thanks of their coun  
try.

Thanks  
due to }  
Mr. Adams }

27

Thursday. M. cloudy, with rain  
and N.E. wind; the day continued  
rainy & wind changed to N.

Congress }  
late  
accounts }  
from }

By the last account from Congress  
it appeared that the ten regiment bill  
in the Senate, would not pass that  
body. If however Mr Polk intends  
to conquer the whole of Mexico; these  
regiments, and more, will be wanted  
to hold the people in subjection, and supply  
the loss of men by sickness, which is no  
doubt, greater than is presented to the  
public eye. One symptom of this, is  
the number of officers, [    ] from  
their commands, on leave of absence.  
A summer campaign in Mexico, we think, must  
have melted lower the spirit, they pos  
sessed when they left their homes to kill  
Mexicans & not in the halls of Monte  
zuma in defense of their country

Jany  
27

Genl  
Scott's  
promotion }

His re  
call  
not im  
proba  
ble. }

The  
warm  
patriots }

Gen.  
Cushing's  
steel un  
tried }

Gen. Scott's reputation as a Commander in Chief, seems not to be firmly established in the views of his subordinates, who have preferred complaints against him since his arrest of Generals Worth and Pillow~ The command of an army consisting of undisciplined corps is not a task a scientific General would choose. Scott's Generals owe their plans to Mr. Polk, and it would be singular indeed, if he is a competent Judge of military qualifications. Gen. Scott may be recalled, and a commander more congenial to democracy appointed in his place. And, if we can rely on hints of the late papers, this is the plan of Mr Polk & his cabinet. Under such an administration, General Scott may find "the post of honor a private station"

It is also hinted that the General has expressed a willingness to be recalled from the command of the army in Mexico. This may be correct, for we believe he is not very desirous of making another campaign under the vertical rays of a Mexican Sun; and it is probable that most of the warm patrols under him, feel the same aversion to a second campaign, where malaria is more formidable than Mexican bullets.

Gen. Cushing, however, may be an exception, since he has not had an opportunity to try the goodness of his steel in a battle; and his readiness to accept of the gubernatorial chair in Massachusetts savors, not a little, of a preference to civil life, where ambition may be gratified at a distance from the cannon mouth. Let it not be supposed that we "doubt his steel". We mean only to say, "[ ] hinders [ ]" may not possess all the charms he had anticipated—while at his peaceful home.



Jany  
27  
Other }  
gener }  
als }

Others who sought glory under the  
burning rays of a Mexican sun, we believe,  
participate in the same feelings, and  
with the same pleasure, would  
return to their proper employments of  
domestic life.

28

Friday. M. fair, wind W. the  
day fair & air moderate.

Arthur }  
Fuller's }  
funeral }

The funeral of Mr Aaron Fuller's  
son, Arthur, past our house in the after  
noon; he died of a consumption, aged  
This fatal disorder makes sad inroads  
on our young people, or those of mid  
dle age, and no effectual remedy  
is found for its prevention or cure.  
It seems to be peculiar to cold and vari  
able climates, such as that of New-  
England & other Northern States. In  
the Southern, fatal fevers take the place  
of consumptions, & which is the most fatal  
is a question. And why are not other  
animals, furnished with lungs, subject to  
similar diseases?

Erroneous statement  
in part

---

Since writing the above, I am in  
formed that the funeral noticed was  
not that of Mr Fuller but of the wife  
H. Russell of South Deerfield who died  
of a disease unknown to me.  
Mr. Fuller died Wednesday last, of the  
disease mentioned, & this day is buried  
in the family cemetery of Mr Fuller's  
father, at whist is called the Bars,  
at the side of his mother, who died  
of the same disease; as I was informed.

---

Mr. Sheldon was with my Son when  
employed on rail roads in the state of Illinois,  
and there suffered severely with the fever  
and ague, which probably broke his  
constitution, brought on a consumption,  
in our cold region.

Jany 29      Saturday. m. cloudy, wind SW  
a flash of snow last night; but most  
of the day fair. and snow gone.

Ru }  
mors }  
of Peace }      We hear various rumors of peace  
with Mexico, but all considered ground  
less. That a just and honorable  
peace might be made with her  
within a short time, is not  
doubted, provided we were so  
disposed. But so long as Mr

Re }  
marks }      Polk insists on a cession of so large  
a portion of her territory to us, she  
may as well remain in her present con  
dition, and at the risk of the con  
quest of her whole country. should  
Congress refuse to grant men and  
money for further operations in  
Mexico, Mr Polk might relax his  
demand of territory; but should  
he give up his grasp on the Cali  
fornias, & new Mexico, his party  
would "damn him to everlasting fame"

Mr Polk's }  
position }      Thus poised between his duty [   ]  
[   ] to his country, and his oblige  
tion of his party, he will oscillate  
between the two, and become fixed  
only when the strongest is ascertained.  
To suppose he possesses that decision  
which a wise course would have ren  
dered easy, would be granting him  
more rectitude than is often found  
in him who owes his place to pop  
ular delusion. If Mr. Polk is an hon  
orable man, his position, at the head  
of a party, who "feel power & forget  
right," is an unfortunate one to say  
the least. Both for himself & his country.  
But the disgrace of his outrageous invasion  
of Mexico will never be wiped away, nor  
the blunder of Congress, in sustaining him  
in the first instance, forgotten.

Jany 30

Letter  
from  
friends  
at Bur  
lington }

Cau  
tion of }

small  
pox }

cold  
water  
effusion }

The cold  
day re  
turned }

Sunday. M. fair, wind NW;  
the day fair, but hazy at the close.  
Last night received a Letter from  
my son's wife Elizabeth, dated  
Burlington Jany 26<sup>th</sup>, inst. "all well,  
very well". and the weather there, much  
as it is here & no snow; the Lake still  
open. She notices a few cases of the  
small pox, at that place, but says she  
Arthur & Charles have been vaccinated  
some time ago. Perhaps, however, re  
vaccination, may be a good precaution  
especially in Charly, who was young  
when he was subjected to the process.  
The kine pock seems to be mitigated small  
pox, and when slight in its effects,  
may not be a certain security against  
the virus of the genuine small pox.  
She says she is in the practice of washing  
little Charles in cold water in the morn  
ing, and that it appears to be beneficial  
to him. Arthur, she says, is very busy  
and of course, they cannot visit as  
until next spring, when they think of  
coming to Deerfield, by the way of Glens  
falls, where they will see to the putting  
up the monumental stones to their sisters  
grave.  
The late cold day, was severe;--Burling  
ton the thermometer 27° below zero, at  
Middlebury 30° and at Rutland still low  
er. The Road gets along about as usual  
but it is intended to drive the work  
soon. To hear of the welfare of our  
friends is gratifying; and when we see  
them employed in laudable business, the grat  
ification is enhanced. May my friends  
always find such employments, and at  
the same time feel a regard for the welfare of  
others.  
"Honor & shame, from no condition rise  
Art will your part, there all the honor lies"<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> From Alexander Pope's *Poems of Sentiment: II. Life Greatness*.

Jany  
 31  
 The Gen }  
 eral Court }  
 Petition }  
 prepared }  
 Short }  
 railroads }  
 Their }  
 futility }  
 A re }  
 midy }  
 propos }  
 ed }  
 Fluctu }  
 ation of }  
 our laws }

Monday. M. fair, wind NE;  
 The day fair; at night hazy.  
 In looking over the proceedings of  
 our General Court we regret to see  
 such a crowd of petition preferred  
 some for the repeal or alteration of  
 laws which have been listed by  
 long experience. Among the petitions  
 are many for short rail roads  
 for the accommodation of a few con  
 tiguous towns, where the business  
 would afford them no support.  
 All roads of this kind must prove  
 futile, excepting a few on the vicinity  
 great trading marts. Where a small  
 number of towns are in want of  
 [    ] way connecting with the great  
 rail roads, graded ways for wagons  
 &c. may be road substitutes. A rail  
 road without sufficient business for  
 its support, is miserable property  
 and will ultimately be given up &  
 the expense lost, as was the case with  
 many of our Turnpike roads construct  
 ed a few year ago.  
 This rage for short rail roads will  
 at length subside, & the people return  
 to their true interests, the cultivation  
 of their farms. Would it no be a wise  
 precaution, in the legislature, to require  
 a subscription, in some degree [    ]  
 the subscription of a road, to accompa  
 ny petition for them? This would  
 put at rest many futile projects, which  
 now divert the people from their proper  
 business. But as a considerable portion  
 of the the legislation are new members  
 something must be brought forward, to  
 show, their supreme knowledge over  
 their predecessors: [    ] the constant fluct  
 uation of our laws, an evil of no  
 small magnitude. The business pre  
 sented indicates a protracted session.

Jany

31

[ ] }  
[ ] }

In Congress, the Mexican war is the chief topic, and the democratic plan of conquering the whole of Mexico, is no longer disguised, though not included in the first plan for seizing the two Californias & new Mexico. It now becomes the duty of the friends of order and justice, in the two houses, to defeat the vandalic design, by withholding men and money, from Mr. Polk; but we have little expectations that a majority in either house, will take this honorable course.

Death  
of C  
Shel  
don } }

This day died Mr Charles Sheldon of a Consumption, at our Academy where he have kept the boarding room for the students—a worthy young man of 35 years of age. This is the fourth case, since the commencement of winter The fatal disease—the bane of the young and middle aged!

February (1848)

1.

Tuesday. M cloudy A snow fell about 8 inches deep, wind NW; yesterday not a patch of snow was seen; the day generally fair.

Alba  
ny Cul  
tivator } }

Messrs. Tucker & Howard, send me No. 2 of the Albany Cultivator for February, containing (at page 47) an extract from a letter of mine, in relation to Deerfield Meadow Mr. Howard visited our town last summer & took some notes on our cultivation &c. The Cultivator is a cheap & useful publication (the price 1 dollar pr. year) and should be patronized by every farmer.~

Small  
pox } }

We hear of the small pox, from various parts of the country, supposed to be propagated by Irish immigrants, who carry the virus  
in

Feby  
 1  
 Vaccination }  
 Its [ ] }  
 [ ] [ ] }  
 [ ] }  
 Its efficacy established }

in their clothing. This should stimulate all who have not availed themselves of Dr. Jenner's great discovery, to submit to the process of vaccination: and in all cases where the process was preformed in infancy, a re vaccination is a good precaution. But we now and then find, even parents, indifferent to the subject, and suffer their children to be exposed to the fatal disease, which, we think, proceeds from a want of reflection or common discernment. Of the salutary effects of real vaccination, no more doubt remains, in the minds of men of science, than that gravitation exists, and causes the fall of bodies. It is now extended to all parts of the civilized world, and, in some instances, to the uncivilized parts. Like other things it has its laws, which must not be disregarded. It for instance, it is found that vaccination in infancy, is not a security in adult age, than a renewal of the process becomes necessary; but still its benefit is not to be doubted. It is a fact that since Dr. Jenner's discovery the small pox has ceased to be the disease of the world, and we have become indifferent to its former ravages. Let the practice of vaccination cease, we should soon see the dreaded destroyer return with relentless vigor; "Death his vast scythe with sweep enormous wield And shuddering pity quit the fester'd field"<sup>11</sup> And where contagion is rife, men

<sup>11</sup> Erasmus Darwin, *Of Rapaciousness*

- Feby  
1 fearful of his fellow man, from apprehension of the lurking foe, shunning society to escape exposure to the secret malady. Contrast this with the confidence now felt in the efficacy of vaccination.
- 2  
Weath }  
er } Wednesday. M. fair, wind NE and the day clear with moderate air and good sleighing. We may yet have a month or two of steady winter. But I avoid predictions and leave them to our moon philosophers, and Thomas' Almanac, which still gives us the signs that govern the human body, and of course, the times when to castrate their animals; and also to wean their babies, boil their soap, and sow their crops. Let us not, however, smile at the publisher for he evinces a knowledge of vulgar prejudices, & publishes the almanac to sell, like Peter Pinder's razors. Perhaps however it is as well for a portion of mankind to believe in this mimicry as to attempt to make them philosophers,
- Alma }  
nacs }
- Vulger }  
preju }  
dices }
- Not con }  
fined }  
to the }  
unin }  
formed }
- 3 Thursday. M. fair, wind N.; the day fair, but hazy.  
Joseph Henry Esqr. & wife, made me visit from Halifax, Vt. She is still lame in one of her limbs, otherwise well.

Feby  
 3  
 J. Hen  
 ry &  
 wife's  
 visit }

Mr Henry brings me a bundle of  
 Gales & Seaton's Washington papers,  
 containing full proceedings of Congress,  
 Speeches of the members, and much  
 sound political matter of the Editors.  
 From these papers we may learn the  
 plans of Mr Polk and his party, with  
 out disguise. A more searching paper  
 is not published within the U. States.  
 With such [ ] at the [ ]  
 [ ] [ ] Mr Polks machinery ~~schemes~~ for  
 "conquering a Peace" will not pass un  
 noticed, nor his demagogues be able to  
 maintain their political delusions.

4  
Friday. M. cloudy, wind N,  
 and the day the same & sprinkles of snow  
 This morn our friends Henry & wife  
 left us for Halifax. Such friendly  
 visits promote good feelings.

Direct  
 tax pre  
 posed  
 in Congress }

In the Congress house of Representatives  
 it is proposed to raise a tax of 6 millions  
 by and assessment on the property of  
 the people. Should this pass into  
 a law, it will, as Mr Jefferson said,  
 in another exigency, "Set the people to  
 rights" and the war would at once  
 end. Judge John M. Lean in a late  
 letter just published, advised to this step  
 as effectual. So long as money may  
 be obtained by loans, the people will re  
 main blind to the cost of military  
 glory. I think the step is a wise one,  
 though but a portion of the tax will  
 ever reach the treasury. If people will  
 have a war of invasion, they must pay  
 the expense of it, and this without  
 grumbling. Where war is thus felt. the  
 people will inquire who were its orig  
 inators; and these pseudo patriots will  
 soon fall back into obscurity, to groan  
 over their folly.

An ef  
 factual  
 remedy  
 in a  
 useless  
 war. }



Feb'y 5      Saturday. M. Cloudy wind  
 NE; last night 7 or 8 inches of snow  
 fell; the day cloudy with some snow  
 Winter now appears in its usual  
 garb.

The peace }  
 rumors      }      The rumors of peace, circulated  
                  during the week, seem to be with-  
                  out foundation, and the war hawks  
                  are still determined to press the war  
                  to the conquest of the whole of Mexico,  
                  but a serious obstruction lies  
                  in the course. Where is the money  
                  to be found to defray the expense?

money }  
 want    }  
 ed       }      The people will hardly submit  
                  to direct taxation in an aggressive  
                  war: And if Mr. Polk and his  
                  party are forced to this step, their  
                  schemes are at an end, and  
                  the war will soon terminate.  
                  History will relate the disgraceful  
                  tale; and may future generations learn  
                  from it, the folly of the present  
                  administration. Folly rather  
                  vandalism, I might have said  
                  more appropriately.

Mr. P. }  
 plans    }  
 under    }  
 stood    }      In looking over the debates in Con-  
                  gress, it appears that Mr. Polk's  
                  unconstitutional stride is well  
                  understood by the honorable mem-  
                  bers, who have stripped off  
                  the disguise of his invasion  
                  of Mexico: and neither he, nor  
                  the sophistry of his supporters  
                  can create a doubt, in the minds  
                  of discerning men of the real design  
                  of the war: viz. to conquer the whole  
                  of the northern part of Mexico.

Feb'y		<u>Sunday</u> . M. cloudy, wind NW; some snow falling; the day continued cloudy throughout, and rather cold. with now and then a sprinkling of snow.
6		
7		<u>Monday</u> . M. cloudy wind W; the day generally cloudy & cold.
Report of our Committee on the War	}	The <u>Report</u> of the joint Committee of the two houses of our Legislature, on the Mexican war, was made in the Senate last Wednesday—Mr Buckingham Chairman. It is a strong document irrefutable in its promises, and conclusive in its deductions.
Items of the Report	}	After defining the various kinds of war, in which nations engage it asks: "Is the war in which our Country is now engaged with Mexico, a war of <u>defence</u> , or is it a war of <u>aggression</u> ?" The solution of this problem, they say, may be obtained by reference to facts. "The Committee would not assail, with language severe or disrespectful, the acts or declarations of the Chief Magistrate of the Union; but it is a fact, too notorious to be kept out of sight in this report, that the causes he has assigned for the commencement and prosecution of hostile ties on the acknowledged territory of Mexico, have been shown to be <u>groundless or frivolous</u> "
Mr Polk's pretensions groundless & frivolous.	}	
Character of his peace	}	Mr. Polk has told us his object in the war was peace, and for that purpose his invading armies have carried the " <u>olive branch</u> " on their standards. The peace <u>now</u> sought, the Committee say, is like the peace which exists between the parties, when the lamb cases to struggle under the power of the lion, when the dove

Feby  
7

Slave }  
ry one }  
design }

has done fluttering in the grasp of the vulture. That it is such a peace which our government proposes to make with Mexico: there is some cause apprehended, if not too much evidence to admit of doubt or disbelief. Touching slavery, the committee say; "They cannot doubt that it is the intention of the Authors of the war, and of those who are in favor of continuing it, to pursue the career of conquest for the acquisition of territory, and to acquire territory when on to extend, stablize and perpetuate the institution of slavery.

Solemn }  
call on }  
Congress }  
to sus }  
pend }  
the war }

In conclusion, the committee "call up on our Senators & Representatives in Congress, to avail themselves of every proper occasion to present to that body, a solemn and decided declaration of opposition to the war and the extension of slavery, and to do all in their power to maintain the principles herein expressed."

A moral }  
power }  
ful }  
check }

The remonstrance, though powerful, will probably have little effect on the war hawks in Congress, who have lost sight of national honor and justice. A more powerful check is ~~now~~ to the war is now seen in that body—a direct tax on the people, which, if carried out, will soon put a quietus on the war spirit, and bring back the honest part of community to their interests. and happiness.

Hopes }  
of peace }  
[    ] }

If the proposal made of raising money were adopted for aggressive wars would be waged, and none of this description, long continued. Prior to this war the friends of peace flattered themselves that the war spirit of civilized nations was subsiding, but the war has shown how little foundation there is for their benevolent hopes. The bubble of war, still has its attraction for young men, and the battle

- Febry  
7  
Appears }  
ground }  
less }
- field is is the test of glory.  
Should another thirty years  
of peace produce a different race of  
men, then the philanthropist,  
might boast of progress in the  
useful arts and indulge in  
the hopes of an improved race.  
But alas, the present condi  
tion of the world gives no prom  
ise of such a race; and it is  
feared that nations will con  
tinue to decide their disputes by:  
the cannon's mouth, where jus  
tice is silenced, and humanity gives  
place to ferocity.
- 8  
9
- Tuesday. M. fair, wind N;  
and the day clear with wind  
NE. Sleighing is now good &  
the snow of a convenient depth.  
Wednesday. M fair, wind NE  
and the day clear & cold.
- The proceedings of Congress, and of  
our General Court reach me very tardily  
from the want of papers from Washington  
and Boston. If the country papers  
give us details, they are very stinted  
and few of the extended speeches are  
included.
- 10  
11
- Thursday. M. fair wind W.  
the day clear & pleasant, though  
windy in part.  
Friday. M. fair, wind N:  
last night very cold: the day  
clear & wind changed to W & SW  
air cold.
- Fish }  
ing }
- Winter fishing. Several of our young  
people are in the habit of fishing  
with baited hooks cast in holes

Febry  
11

Montague ponds } cut through the ice, & with considerable success, a party went to ponds in Montague a few days ago, & took several fine pickerel & some other fish, among which I saw a dace of nearly 3 lbs. These fish I believe are not often found in ponds, but in running waters

Large Dace caught } These ponds, surrounded by sandy plains, are found to contain very fine water, in which river fish are sometimes found. Pickerel and great devourers of other fish, & perhaps were they extirpated from their ponds, other fish might be found in abundance.

Other fish there found } Various other fish are found in these ponds, among which I am informed are perch & trout About 60 years ago I visited these ponds, then surrounded by woods, and presenting a solitary feature which I have not for gotten

12 Saturday. M. cloudy, soon fair and wind NE; the day fair, but hazy and pretty cold.

Congress } Another week has elapsed without hearing any thing important from Mr Polks invading armies in Mexico, or from Congress. The ten regiment bill hangs in the Senate with doubtful success. In our General Court petitions are still flowing in, for various projects and among them utopian rail roads to the land of Nod. Far be from me

Feby 12  
 Rail }  
 road }  
 projects }

Some }  
 futile }

13

The wea }  
 ther }

Re }  
 marks }

a wish to cast reproach upon any  
 scheme, intended for the benefit of the  
 public, or that of individuals, where  
 the public are not injured by them  
 But when men give loose to their imag  
 inations and wonder without star  
 or compass for guides, it becomes a  
 duty to interpose, and bring them  
 back to their interest. That some of  
 the present projects for rail roads are  
 wild in the extreme, cannot be doubted  
Chinese walls and Egyptian pyramids  
 have been constructed, and a rail road  
 from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean  
 may be accomplished, when a full popu  
 lation of our country may demand it.  
 To the project of a rail road from  
 Greenfield by a tunnel of 4 or 5 miles  
 through Hoosac mountain, I would  
 interpose no obstruction to the place could I  
 perceive even a distant probability  
 of accomplishing it. My interest  
 would enlist me in its favor, were  
 I not strongly impressed with its futility.  
Sunday M. fair & cold. wind N.E.  
 and a fair day followed. The weather  
 is now truly that of winter, but the  
 snow of moderate depth. Sun's decli  
 nation about 14°S, approaching the equa  
 tor. Should Mr Polk fail of conquer  
 ing a peace" a few months it will again  
 present a vertical sun to Gen. Scott  
 and his troops, from which, it is [   ]  
 they would be glad to be relieved. Their  
 zeal of the most ardent, we think, has  
 evaporated by our campaign of this  
 kind. Hence we may [   ] for  
 the absence of so many of Gen Scotts officers who  
 have returned to their homes, to breath a  
 more [   ] atmosphere; while the  
 enlisted soldier doles away his life

- Feby  
13  
Condition of  
enlisted  
soldiers
- in counting the slow expiring days of his enlistment, without an expression of uneasiness at his condition of aversion to the service; and if he find himself in the midst of sweeping sickness in an unhealthy camp, he is not at liberty to seek a more healthy station, though one be found in the vicinity. In a word his duty is implicit obedience to orders, nor is he at liberty, when certain death approaches to seek safety without the command of his officer. Were this condition of the soldier, made known by the recruiting officer, few indeed would be the names found on his roll. To this total ignorance of military service, Mr Polk is indebted for the wild flow of volunteers, in his invasion of Mexico: and may our young men learn from the losses which have occurred by battles & sickness, that the peaceful arts are their proper employments; and that nations that forget the rules of justice & humanity cannot prosper.
- 14
- Small  
pox  
a case  
of.
- Monday M. cloudy, wind NE and the day soon fair & continued the same A case of small pox. A young lady of this village having recently visited Hartford, was there exposed to the small pox and soon after her return home, the infection appeared. She had been vaccinated at Hartford, after her exposure, but it failed of its protective effect. This failure I leave for our physicians to explain. We now hear of varioid which Mr Webster defines a disease like the small pox; and if it be like the small pox, why not give it its legitimate name?

Feby 14

Re marks on the term varioloid

Questions to Physicians

Call of 2 young men painters & drawers of views

View of the old house

The varioloid, I am informed by physicians will communicate the genuine small pox, If so, why multiply terms? Would not the terms moderate and violent small pox, be more appropriate? In the spring of 1777 I was inoculated with the small pox, and had it very lightly, Was not this, the varioloid, in the true sense of the word? But I have since been amongst the disease with impunity.

Dr Jenners grand discovery of the preventive effects of the vaccine virus, is still important, and all prudent people will avail themselves of it.

Questions to Physicians: Is the varioloid a preventive to the small pox, and vaccination to the varioloid? A priori we should say, both.

The occurrence of a case of small pox in our village, will, I trust, induce many to vaccinate, who have expressed indifference to the subject. merely from inattention to its importance~

Two young men John Sawin & Otto C. Ficht, the former of Greenfield, & the latter of New-York City, made me a call, and exhibited a drawing they had just taken, of our old Indian house, The view was taken from the North room of Augustus Wells' house, & included a view of Dr Williard's house on the opposite side of the street. The view was painted on a pasteboard sheet and I think is pretty good. They practice also artist and Fresco painting. Ficht says, that from a topographic plan of this part of the village, exhibiting the location of the buildings, & elevation with this style, he could, without difficulty know the whole into a perspective view

If



Feby  
14

If the mode proposed to Ficht be practicable, we may yet obtain a good view of the old Fort and included buildings, at the time the village was destroyed by the French and Indians, in 1704. The only difficulty in the case, is a want of an exact knowledge of the position and extent of the fort, which we know was a stockade work, probably with some flanking parts for the defence of the long curtains. A view of this kind representing the houses on fire, would be an interesting object, We have such a delineation in prospect.

15

Tuesday. M fair, wind NW and pretty cold. at sun rise; the day clear and cold.

General }  
Court }

The report of the joint Committee on our State Senate & of the House, on on the Mexican war & slavery, passed the former on Wednesday the 2d instant, by yeas & nays, 35 to 1. This Honorable unit, from Hampden, is true & faithful to his party. In the House no doubt, every democrat will vote in the negative, and it is well that their names should be recorded, that the people should recur to them when called to the ballot boxes. In the Southern States the people find a motive in the war, slavery wants new territory, and northern democrats must support it. "right or wrong", or prove [     ] to their trust.

16

Wednesday. M. fair, wind West; the day clear & a bright sun. The Springfield Daily Republican of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, inserts the following

Feb'y 16	from the N. York Tribune communicated from Washington, which the Editor thinks is substantially true:
Early plan of Mr Polk }	"I have just learned something farther in relation to the early <u>amiable</u> intensions of this administration toward Mexico. It has come out in evidence before the Committee on military officers, in the Senate, that Capt. Gillespie of the army was dispatched in 1845 to Col. Fremont then in Upper California, with a letter in <u>cipher, directing the Colonel on to shape his course there as to excite a rebellion against the authority of Mexico</u> , of which <del>perhaps</del> he could take advantage so as to effect the independence of California, and prepare her for annexation to their country."
Said to be de veloped }	Whether proof has been found by the Committee, that such a letter was sent to Col. Fremont, is not certain; but that this has been the plan & design of <u>Jacobin-democracy</u> , from the time of the administration of Mr Monroe, to the present, is too evident to admit of a moment's doubt in the minds of those who have carefully watched its progress. And though checked in a degree, during the administrations of J.Q. Adams Jackson and Van Buren, it revived under that of Vice-President Tyler; and Mr Polk was elected to the Presidency to complete the scheme. Hence the orders to General Taylor to advance from the Nueces and invade the Mexican territory, is at once explained.
Not improb able }	
Remarks on it }	
	Any

Feby  
16

Any doubts entertained on this subject evinces a blindness, which no sane mind can harbor for a moment.

Other  
plans  
of demo  
cracy }

The present view of this democracy is the conquest of the whole of Mexico under the pretence of indemnity. Now is this all: the same party have fixed an eye on the Island of Cuba if not on the other West India Islands. The British colonies on our north and northeast quarters, are less inviting, but they at length, are to submit to the fraternal hug. South America may remain in her present condition provided she is duly submissive to our strides. But the time may come will come, when retributive justice shall rouse from its repose and teach us that other nations have rights as well as our own, and that to be prosperous & respected, a nation must adhere strictly to the rules of morality, benevolence & humanity.

West In  
dian  
Islands  
in view }

Mr  
Polks  
instruct  
tions to  
Col. Fre  
mont }

In the present war with Mexico it would be unjust to ascribe the whole of the turpitude to Mr Polk, since it is known that the plan was formed long prior to his call from obscurity. He is, in fact, but the agent of his party and was selected to carry out their plan. If however in his zeal to answer the designs of his party, he in fact instructed Col. Fremont to endeavor to excite a rebellion against the authorities of Mexico, as asserted by the writer of the note in the Tribune, he is clearly particeps criminis, and justly deserves

Feby  
 16

Re  
 marks  
 on }

17

Mr Dwights  
 speech  
 in our  
 Legislature }

His lash  
 for certain  
 Whig mem-  
 bers of  
 Congress }

the decided reproach from all friends  
 of our country. Mr Polk, it is believed  
 expected to obtain possession of north Mex  
 ico without much opposition from  
 the Mexican government; but his claim  
 to the whole country under pretence of  
 indemnity, was hardly anticipated.  
 this probably is an after thought.  
 with which his party, he will know  
 would readily comply. Whether Con  
 gress will afford further aid to his  
 measures is to be seen.

Thursday. M fair, wind North  
 and cold air; the day continued  
 fair & clear

In our house of representative, the  
 Mexican war bill, as it has passed the  
 Senate, came up on Tuesday last  
 Mr Bryant of Barre proposed some  
 amendments & delivered a speech of about  
 an hour, in justification of the war & of  
 the administration, not forgetting the  
 treasonableness of opposing either.  
 Mr Dwight of Springfield followed &  
 spoke against the war, contending that  
 it was wicked at its origin, and wicked  
 in its object, and he gave a deserved  
 castigation to the whig members of Con  
 gress who voted men and money for  
 the support of Mr Polk's nefarious inva  
 sions. He said "If there be guilt in its  
 commencement, he confessed that the  
 Whigs of the last Congress were involved  
 in it, with the exception of the frontier  
glorious & immortal men who voted against  
 the War Bill; the Whigs sanctioned it,  
 and lied it into existence. If democratic  
 hands are embraced in it; the dammed  
 spot of blood was also on the Whig hand."  
 After other remarks, he said "No Mas  
 sachusetts man will ever again vote for  
 a war because to oppose a war is unpopular"

Feby  
17

This was a severe cut for some ~~of our~~  
of our accommodating members, in Congress.  
who lacked the firmness of unyielding  
patriots. Let them be remembered.

Mr Dwight  
ought to  
continue

After speaking, towards a hour, the house  
adjourned, and Mr Dwight was to continue  
his argument, when the subject should  
be called up, which it is supposed, will  
be on this day. The vote of the Whigs in  
Congress, to which Mr Dwight alludes, was  
an anomaly which can be explained on  
no other ground than their inattention  
to the subject, or a more criminal neglect of  
duty.

The Whig  
vote in  
Congress  
a blunder

In extenuation of the blunders, it is  
said Gen. Taylor, in executing the or  
der of the President, plunged himself  
into a dangerous position without  
a supply of provisions for his troops.  
Be it so: But what was his plain  
course but to have fallen back to his  
magazines at Point Isabelle, which  
he at length accomplished; but the  
error was a second advance prior to  
a declaration of war; and when  
Congress added to their blunder by grant  
ing to Mr Polk 50 thousand volunteers to  
carry out his designs, they fell into the  
snare set for them, and he triumphed in  
his unconstitutional course. To find  
such men in our Legislature, as Mr Dwight  
is cheering to the patriot; and we  
trust that the effects of democracy  
to [ ] over Mr Polk's designs will  
be ineffectual.~

18

Friday m. fair, wind NE, and cold  
air; the day very clear and the  
bright sun dissolves the snow & some of  
the roads are bare.

In the evening recd a letter from son Arthur

- Feby  
18  
Letter  
from  
my Son  
at Bur  
lington
- dated Burlington the 15<sup>th</sup> instant  
informing that all are well and  
that he & family intend to visit us  
in May next, by the passage of Lake  
George, and wishes information  
in relation to the old military oper  
ations in that quarter; requesting also  
a copy of my Antiquarian Re  
searches; says he has purchased  
Buckingham's Travels in America  
9 Vols; a beautiful work with plates  
which he intended to bring with him  
on his visit to Deerfield.
- 19 Saturday, m fair, wind NE  
and most of the day clear.
- 20 Sunday. M. cloudy, wind N  
the day continued cloudy; and inch  
or 2, of snow last night. During  
most of the day moderate rain  
fell.
- 21 Monday M. fair, and a  
brisk W. wind prevailed; the  
day fair and windy. Snow thaws  
Made up a bundle, consisting of  
two books and a letter of 12 pages  
for son Arthur at Burlington Vt.  
to be forwarded by Richard C. Arms  
who leaves tomorrow. The letter  
contains notices of the old mil  
itary operations about Lake George  
and the vicinity, which he intends  
to visit next May. No part of our  
country is more interesting to a  
man of military taste than this, ex  
tending from Stillwater on the Hudson,  
to Crown Point on Lake Champlain.
- Letter  
to my  
Son  
with a  
bundle

Feb  
22

Rail  
road  
routes  
in Vt.

Tuesday M Cloudy, wind SW  
the snow much reduced our  
roads bare; the day cloudy &  
some snow fell. R. Arms sat for Burlington  
to join Arthur's Corps of Engi  
neers. He says a plan and  
profile of the whole route of the  
rail road from Burlington to  
Bellows-falls is now with the  
artists at Boston, and prom  
ises to send me a copy when  
finished. The two roads  
from Burlington to Boston  
will be rival routes, and which  
will command the business  
of Lake Champlain is to be seen.  
The Rutland route is said to  
be the shortest, and of course,  
the most direct. Can both  
be maintained? Doubtful to say  
the least~

Lead  
pipe  
water

Water from Lead Pipes  
A Gentleman at Worcester, says Duri  
ing the last year he has been in the  
use of water pumped from a well through  
a lead pipe, and the result has been  
days and weeks of most intense suf  
fering; and he cautions people against  
the use of water that has been in contact  
with lead. In this part of our vil  
lage water is brought in such pipes  
but, as yet, I have heard of no ill  
effects from it. Perhaps when the  
water is kept constantly running, the  
deleterious effects from the lead, may  
be less injurious, than when occasionally  
pumped from wells. The hint deserves  
consideration.

Re  
marks

Se

Febby 22		See <u>Park's Chemical Catechism</u> page 337, when he shows the effects of lead on water, and how to detect it. I have long been suspicious of drinking water from these pipes, especially when it remains a long time in them, or in lead vessels. Formerly our eating tables were furnished with pewter basons, plates, platters & spoons were they not unwholesome? The old wooden furniture, I think, was preferable Modern chemistry has taught us the effects of <u>metallurgic oxids</u> upon the human body and metallic pipes may at length be laid aside. As deleterious and the old fashioned well with its sweep, pull and wooden bucket be found preferable to all of our hydraulic machinery: thus it some times happens without boasted improvements.
Table furniture formerly	}	
23		<u>Wednesday</u> . M. cloudy, wind S.W. sun seen before noon. PM fair and bright sun, dissolving the snow. & some of the hills are bare. "An Astronomer in Philadelphia, (say the papers) predicts that March will be colder than any month this winter." I am tired with such vulgar prejudices, the results of a total ignorance of the solar system & the laws which govern it. Because an Astronomer can calculate eclipses & the places of the heavenly bodies, the <u>mass</u> men suppose he may predict the weather. For the effects of popular ignorance, see Arago on Comets page 60 Farras [    ]
Predictions of the weather	}	



Feby  
23

Peace  
[   ]  
[   ]

Re  
marks }

24

Mr  
Adams }

Rumors from Washington say that General Scott has made a treaty of peace with the Mexicans, and sent it to Mr Polk, for his acceptance.

If the treaty cedes to the U. States the Californias, New Mexico and all the territory north and east of the Rio Grand, it may be acceptable to Mr Polk and his party; for this beyond a doubt, was, their design on first invading of Mexico.

This treaty accomplished, Congress will next parcel out the territory in Districts of states, convenient for the institutions of our Southern brethren, where the colored man may continue to wear his chains for centuries, while other parts of Mexico may remain in repose provided they enter into bonds to keep the peace, submit to our future encroachment, where ever we deem and additional territory, always remembering that their existence as a nation, depends on the consent of our democracy.

Thursday. M. cloudy, wind NW and the day occasionally fair.

The proceedings of our General Court reach me very tardily, often 3, 4 or 5 days by the river. This is vexations to one residing near a rail road on which daily passengers arrive from Boston.

By the last accounts from Congress we are informed that John Q. Adams has had a 2d shock of the pulsy, which may end [   ] his course of [   ].

Febry		<u>Friday</u> M. fair, wind N.E.
25		air cold; the day clear, and the snow much diminished
Death	}	The Springfield daily of this
of Mr		day, announces the <u>Death</u>
Adams		of <u>John Q. Adams</u> on Wednesday
		evening last., at Washington
		Mr Davis of Massachusetts, pro
		nounced an [    ] on the deceased
		in the Senate. In the House
		several members spoke on event.
		His age is stated at 81.
and Majr.	}	The same paper stated the Death
Webs		of <u>Major Webster</u> , son of Daniel
ter		Webster, at Mexico-While we la
		ment his loss, we cannot but
		regret his indiscretion in offering
		his services in a sickly climate in
		an unjust & unnecessary war. A war
		which will darken the pages of
		our history, and mark with
		<u>blood</u> the hands of its contrivers.
26		<u>Saturday</u> . M. fair, wind NE and
		the day fair & pleasant; wind charged to SW
		Gen. Scotts treaty with the Mexi
		can Government has reached Washington
		It cedes to the U. States the whole, or
Mexi	}	nearly the whole, of North Mexico, which
can		Mr Polk had in view, when he or
treaty		dered Gen. Taylor to invade the country
		but whether his democrats will be
		contented without <u>the whole</u> of Mex
		ico is uncertain. To render the treaty
		acceptable to them, an article of the fol
		wing tenor may be required: Viz
		Mexico in no case to make a <u>treaty</u>
		of

Feby  
 26 of alliance with any nation of  
 Europe, nor to cede to them any part  
 of their country, "without our con  
 sent" Let other neighboring na  
 tions learn their fate from that  
 of Mexico~  
 27 Sunday. M. fair, wind W.  
 the day occasionally cloudy.  
 Our Clergyman noticed the death of  
 Mr Adams at Washington, in the forenoon  
 discourse. This I think very proper  
 since his political life has been so  
 [     ] free from errors. A critical Biog  
 raphy of the patriot would afford  
 useful lessons for posterity; and it  
 is believed he has left numerous Essays  
 in manuscript; worthy of the public  
 eye, and would serve as a History of his  
 own time. It is hoped some  
 qualified gentleman will look over  
 his manuscripts, and submit the  
 important parts to the press  
 This day I saw a letter from David  
 S. Hoyt of the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, directed  
 to his Father's family, from the City  
 of Mexico, in which he says he  
 enjoys perfect health, and is writing  
 in one of the halls of Montezuma.  
 He notices two or three recent expedi  
 tions of detachments, but no fighting  
 This season of the year no doubt is  
 fine at Mexico; but I fear the ef  
 fects of a vertical sun. Nothing of Gen  
 Scotts treaty with Mexico, is said  
 probly not then known there.

Feby 28	<u>Monday</u> M. fair, wind NE , the day became cloudy afternoon and snow fell
A pam phlet from C.O. Boutille	My faithful friend, Mr Charles O. Boutelle, sends me Mr Bach's Report of the Sea Coast survey show ings of that work for the year, end ing October 1847, franked by Danl. P. King M.C.
29	<u>Tuesday</u> M. fair, wind NE the day blustering & cold wind; West wind Last night 5 or 6 inches additional snow which gives a good run for sleighs &c. From the <u>Report of Mr Bache</u> we have a pretty full account of the progress of the work for the year past, and it gives me much satisfaction to learn that a work of so much science is in operation The principal points on the coast, are fixed by [    ] triangulation, & the interme diate parts filled up by <u>Plain Table</u> sur veys. An accurate map of the sea coast with the shoals rocks & Islands, it is hop ed will be the result of the surveys. A dangerous shoal southward of Nantucket has been discovered and partially surveyed This shoal, it is supposed, has caused the loss of several vessels, while it was un known to mariners. In the operations on shore, I find that my ingenious friend, Charles O. Boutelle acts a conspicuous part and think his talents, genius & experience are duly appre ciated by Mr Bache the superintendent. Mr Bache's estimate of expense for this year is 165.000 dollars. Can Mr Polk spare this sum from his war charges? <u>Shooting</u> <u>and plundering</u> Mexicans he may deem of paramount importance.
Report on the sea coast Survey by Mr Bache	

Febry  
29

This method of Surveying, called Geodesic, admits the newest instruments and observations, as well as able mathematicians & astronomers.

For a brief Essay on Geodesic surveying, see section 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. 2 of Huthens Mathematics, Col. Mudge's Account of the trigonometrical survey in England and other authors there mentioned.

Aided by these works, and the accurate instruments constructed in Europe our Geodesic operations, it is believed, will not fall short of the accuracy of the English & French mathematicians

March

1

Wednesday M. fair wind West, and cold air; the day mostly fair & cold, with a winter aspect. Sun's Declination 8°S (about) If Genl Scotts peace with the Mexicans fails he & his army, will soon find a vertical sun to deal with, which I think they would be glad to avoid.

2

Thursday. M. fair, & cold, wind N.E.; the day PM generally clouded & wind N. We learn (per chance) that the Committee appointed at the last years session to revise the militia Laws of the Commonwealth has made a Report of 91 pages. Is there no friend in the Legislature who will send me a copy? The subject has heretofore occupied much of my attention. And perhaps I might propose some amendments. An efficient plan may be adopted; but, it is feared, the members of our Legislature, have not given it their attention which the subject demands. A proper military instruction is requisite for internal peace

Mili  
tia }  
Laws }

March 3 Friday M cloudy & snowy, wind N.E, Several inches (4 or 5) fell last night; the day continued cloudy & some snow

Gulf Stream

Gulf Stream } In the appendix to Mr. Bache's Report, we find the following:

Conveys a bottle to Ireland } "A Bottle was picked up, on the 27<sup>th</sup> June last, on the coast of Kerry, Ireland, containing the following memorandum: Mr Spotwood, M.R.G, Coast survey, US being Washington, July 31, 1846; latitude 37 degrees, 39 minutes North; longitude 69 degrees West. GM Bache Lieutenant Commanding, Gulf Stream" N.Y. Herald, Ship news, August 23, 1847.

Remarks } That the Gulf Stream extended from Cape Florid, N. easterly to Ireland has long been known, but its velocity is not known. Probably it varies, with the prevailing winds. The existence of such a current in the Atlantic, is a curious fact in hydrography, and is well explained by the effects of the trade winds May not the waters flowing from the rivers into the Gulf of Mexico add to the effect?

Longitude by Telegraph } In the Report of Mr Bach, the practicability of determining the difference of longitude of places, by Morse's magnetic telegraph is investigated, and he thinks it may be relied on with a good degree of accuracy. (See page 19) If the spark is instantaneous, the only difficulty is in the inaccuracy of the observer and the time keepers or clocks; and the same difficulties will occur in all observations on the heavenly bodies. The determining longitude is now brought to considerable perfection by chronometers & this one much with surprising accuracy.

- March 3 In short, the whole of the processes of this survey are of a curious nature, and they may show to what perfection man may arrive by the application of the laws of nature and mathematical deduction; the latter, a writer observes, “the only one unerring [ ] which God had vouched safe to man.”~
- 4 Saturday. M. fair, wind W. ~~and~~ very cold; the day continued fair & cold wind SW PM We have now a considerable coat of snow on the ground, and as snow is a slow conductor of caloric, it may prevent radiation from the earth, and of course increase the coldness of the air. “It is affirmed that while the temperature of the air in Siberia has been 70° below the freezing point, the surface of the earth protected by its covering of snow, has seldom been colder than 32°” May not this fact account for the increase of cold, which we observe after a fall of considerable snow? When snow lies deep upon the ground, it is a fact that the frost in the soil entirely disappears, which must be caused by action of internal heat in the earth. Hence then, deep snow, must be productive of cold weather. But how ever cold the atmosphere may be the frost penetrates but a few feet below the earths surface; and the waters of our rivers, ponds, & lakes are always of a temperature above the freezing point, otherwise they would become congealed masses. Hence it appears that in our coldest weather the mercury at 30° below zero, fish and other aquatic animals exist in water at a temperature at least 62 above that low point—temperature perhaps congenial to their nature. Thus we see an adoption of means to ends.
- Effects of snow on temperature
- Fish & other aquatic animals

- March  
5      Sunday M. broken clouds and blustering wind at W; the day generally fair & windy. truly winter weather
- 6      Monday M. cloudy; wind SW the day generally cloudy; wind varied to W. Our annual town meeting for the choice of town officers for the ensuing year, My Son Arthur sends me Report of the Directors of the Rutland & Burlington Rail Road Company to the Stockholders of in annual meeting. Rutland Jany 12, 1848, from which it appears that the work is progressing under favorable circumstances and that over 90 miles of the road is expected to be in readiness for the cars by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1849, and the remainder at somewhat later period, during the same year.
- Rutland  
land  
Rail  
road }  
7      Tuesday. m. fair, wind variable but settled in the S.W. The proceed fair & clear, and the sun made an impression on the snow.  
Our farmers have commenced sending the stall fed cattle to Brighton in the rail road cars. a rapid mode of conveyance and perhaps a cheap one.
- 8      Wednesday. m fair, wind South; the day fair with mild air.  
The Report on the Mexican War as it passed in the Senate of this Commonwealth, has been accepted in the House 167 to 72, strictly a party vote. Do these 72 democrats honestly believe that Mr Polk had any other [    ] views than conquest when he commenced the war? The intelligent part of the people will decide.
- Mexican War  
report  
in the  
General  
Court }



March  
9

Thursday. M cloudy with rain  
and West wind; the day continued clou  
dy & wind changed to NE

rail  
road  
report  
further  
notice of

Rutland & Burlington Rail-road Com  
pany. From the Report noticed in last  
page, it appears that the Capital stock of  
said Company is one million of dollars  
sufficient to complete said road, and fur  
nish all necessary apparatus for a convey  
ance, which shall be divided into shares  
of 100 dollars each, and shall be deemed  
personal property, and transferable in  
such a manner as said Corporations shall  
by their by-laws direct. The company  
shall have power to construct a branch  
rail road, at or near the vicinity of Ver  
genes to the navigable waters of Lake  
Champlain.

State  
of the  
Treasury

By the Treasurer Report it appears  
that the money received on assessments  
to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1847=\$356,675.50

And the payments to same =240,258.11

Balance in deposit =116,417.39

The road extends through a pretty  
bare country except the height of land at  
Mount Holley, where the descent to the  
east is somewhat abrupt, but I am  
informed is easily reduced.

That part of the rail-road, from  
Vergennes to Connecticut River, was formerly  
much traversed by the Indians in their  
incursions on our frontiers, and our  
scouting parties sometimes travelled the  
same routs, then wholly covered with  
woods. The men of those days were  
a hardy & resolute race, who were rea  
dy to plunge into the woods, infest  
ed with savages whose pastimes were  
blood & carnage. The scouts sent out  
were generally few in number, with [ ]

Old  
scouts  
on the  
frontier

at their backs, and they might camp on the snow or ground. In their marches they were sometimes guided by the compass, and at all times liable to ambuscades and sudden attacks. These scouts often [ ] the wood between the Connecticut & Lake Champlain, in the present state of Vermont and the route from No 4 (Charlestown) up Black river to Otter Creek was unknown, Mount Holley, was called the Height of Land, over which was an Indian path much frequented.

March 9  
 Their }  
 aru }  
 ous ser }  
 vices }

John }  
 Hawks }  
 route }  
 in 1748 }

In 1748, in the month of February, John Hawks of this town, commissioned by Governor Shirley, out for Canada via No 4, accompanied by Lt. Mathew Clesson John Taylor and a French prisoner Pierre Rambont, taken near Northfield on the 11<sup>th</sup> they left No 4, and proceeded up Black river upon the ice, and over Mount Holly to Otter Creek, and down that creek to the great fall, and thence to Crown Point. On their return from Canada, the next spring, they left the lake about 7 miles "this side" of Crown point, and travelling 28 miles S.E by S. came to Otter Creek, 5 miles below the great falls, where they cross the creek: all of which was good traveling Hence they proceeded S by E 35 miles when they came to the black river, and all the way on a beaten tract ye Indians made in heading down upon the western frontiers;" which 35 miles they judged will make a good cart road, without any thing more than cutting away away the trees that are fallen into the path, exciting a steep hill, just before we came upon the last mentioned stream. There we tracked in the direct course to the north of of Williams river, leaving the common road on black river."

Indian }  
 paths }

Mount }  
 Holley }  
 or height }  
 of Land }

The return route of Hawks party after striking Otter creek was nearly on the route of the rail-roads. One hundred years ago. In 1759 & '60 a road was cut out & made from C point to No 4, or Charlestown.

- March 9 During the war of 1755 scouts were frequently sent out on this and other routes in the state of Vermont.
- Historical notices } After the capture of Ticonderoga & Crown point by Gen. Amherst, in 1759 and the surrender of Canada to the English in 1760, hostilities ceased in Vermont until the commencement of the war of our Revolution in 1775. when settlements had extended over many parts of Vermont.
- 10 Friday. m. cloudy, wind NE: about 2 inches of snow fell last night during the day, continued cloudy with some [ ] but fair at night! wind W.
- Letter from an old friend } An old friend, David Stebbins Esq of Northampton, writes me a letter on my old age, with sundry in queries in relation to my health &c. Formerly I was acquainted with many people in Northampton, and my mother being from that town, I had several connexions there; but a new race has come upon the stage with, whom I have no acquaintance. The families of Stro[n]gs, Hunts, Lymans, Pomeroyes, Tappans, Burcks & Clapps and some others are well recollected. Northampton has sustained a respectable rank among the towns on the Connecticut, and has always commanded the particular notice of travelers. My thanks are due to Mr Stebbins for his calculation, remarks & observations on the octogeny.
- 11 Saturday m. fair, wind N.E.; the day fair and pleasant
- of the } Up to this time we have nothing certain of Gen. Scotts treaty with Mexico. Peace} Probably it will be sent back with proposed amendments. In the mean time our Army may have to sustain another campaign under the vertical rays of the sun in the sickly season. Poor fellows! little did they think of sweeping death, when they left their homes to kill Mexicans.

March	}	My Daughter, <u>Isabaella Bryant</u> arrived in the afternoon
11		from Chicopee Falls, She say there
Arrival of Daughter Isabella		is no snow at Springfield, while we have 4 or 5 inches—a variation hardly to be explained by half a degree of latitude. <u>Isothermal</u> lines in mountainous countries, are very sinuous, having little coincidence with the lines of latitude: in level countries the variation is less. In all places the temperature depends much on the height of the land above ocean
12		<u>Sunday</u> . m. fair, wind N.W.; soon became cloudy, and so continued until afternoon, when the sun appeared. but most of the day continued cloudy. with a winter aspect.~
Reminiscences of our town	}	Upwards of 144 years have elapsed since this town was sacked by a force of French & Indians from Canada, under the command of <u>Hertel de Rouvill</u> and Revd. John Williams and most of his people were carried off to that French Province, a distance of about 300 miles through what is now the state of Vermont the snow then from 2 to 3 feet in depth What a scene of distress! Seldom recurred too by our young people. One of the captives, Jonathan Hoyt, my grand father, I have seen in his decreped old age, who died here in 1779, aged 92, and about 16 at the time of his capture His father <u>David Hoyt</u> was captured at the same time and died near <u>Cowass</u> on the march, by <u>starvation</u> .
And my progenitors		My Great Grandfather, David Hoyt was a son of <u>Simon, or, Nicholas</u> Hoyt of Windsor, Ct. among the 1 <sup>st</sup> settlers at that place, came to Hadley & afterwards to Deerfield, where he resided until the town was destroyed in 1704 as above related. He had several sons, one of whom, <u>David</u> was killed in the <u>Meadow fight</u> that year
Deacon David Hoyt	}	

- March 12 My Great Grandfather's name is found in the list of men who were with Capt. Turner, in the Falls fight at Gill, 1676, then I suppose an inhabitant of Hadley. At the time of his capture at Deerfield he bore the title of Deacon. Most of his family was captured with him and one son (Ebenezer) never returned, from Canada.
- 13 Monday. M. fair, wind West, the day partially cloudy, and some thawing of the snow. Wrote a letter to Daniel Stebbins Esqr. at Northampton in reply to his of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, in which I expressed my dissent from the dogma of hereditary depravity to which I was led by some of his remarks.
- 14 Tuesday. M. fair, wind W. & cold and the day proved generally cloudy. We are informed that the treaty of peace with Mexico has been ratified in the Senate at Washington, with some modifications. Mexico may now continue a nation, provided she is submissive to our democracy, and is always ready to give up further territory when demanded, under the international law of annexation. The boundary prescribed in the treaty, may be considered as a sort of fluent, subject, not to fluxcany rules, but to democratic avarice.
- The }  
treaty } The boundary with treaty, sets off to the US nearly the whole territory that Mr Polk had on view when he commenced the war by his invasion.

March 15 Wednesday. m. fair, wind W. & cold morn the day fair & cold.

State of the votes on the treaty } The votes of the Senate on the treaty of peace with Mexico stand 37 ayes & 15 nays; among the latter is Daniel Webster & 27 other Whigs & 7 democrats our John Davis is among the ayes.

Mr. Webster in the negative } Mr Webster, it is presumed, can give the cause of his vote, but it he was right. Mr Davis was wrong and this is the question to be solved That Mexico has been forced to cede her vast northern territory is true.

Que ries } But did Mr Webster suppose a more just treaty ~~one~~ could be obtained by continuing the war under our present administration? The democratic votes among the war-party in the negative may be explained by their determination to obtain the whole of Mexico; but this could not have been the object of Mr. Webster. To hope we shall see his reason, for his vote, and if they are found substantial, what shall he say of John Davis'? Had the Rio Grand been made our South and West boundary, nearly the whole object of the war would have been defeated, and the whole of democracy been opposed to it. In one particular they have departed from their original plan. Viz. in leaving to Mexico the peninsula of California; but this will be an easy acquisition when wanted. Cuba is undoubtedly the next step, and then such other Islands as may be convenient.

The next grasp } The British provinces, on the north and northeast may now prepare for annexation. The remaining part of Mexico, may be left for the next grasp, and also Central America.

March  
15

English }  
claim  
on Cu  
ba }

I have since the next object of our democratic cupidity, could be the annexation of the Island of Cuba to our Union. But before this step is taken it would be wise to look to the condition of the Island. In the debates of the English Parliament now in session, Lord George Bentwick proposed that in consequence of the debt of £45,000,000 due to Great Britain, by Spain, for which the Island of Cuba stood pledged, that “we should foreclose the mortgage, seize upon the Island & emancipate the slaves there, and by that means extinguish slavery for ever, in the archipelago of the West Indias.” Should this step be taken, or should Spain cede the Island to Great Britain, and intruding democracy will find an obstruction to its course, in carrying out the plan of Mr. Monro, as recently recommended by Mr. Polk, whose “olive branch, held out to all nations” would hardly prevent a war with England, ~~and~~ not exactly of the character of that with Mexico.

16

Gen. }  
Scott }

Thursday. M. fair, wind N.W. and very cold air; the day continued fair, but rather cold for the season. wind changed to N.E.  
It appears by the accounts the Major General Butler is commander of our Army in Mexico, and the position of General Scott is a mystery for Mr Polk to explain The General, we are informed is to be arraigned before a Court martial on charges preferred by some of his subordinates. And who are to constitute the Court? Of course some of Mr Polk’s new fledged Generals and Colonels

who

- March 16  
His Court martial? } “who never set a squadron in the field nor of Battles known more than spinsters.”
- 17 } Gen. Scott, it appears, was aware of this, when he took the command of the army in the invasion of Mexico; but perhaps he thought his “enemies at home” would relax their hostility after fighting disparately in their cause, Gen Scott may now learn that military discipline has no affect, to democratic government; and that under it the post of honor is a private station.
- 18 } Friday. M. fair, cold & wind NE; the day very clear, but rather cold. Our roads are becoming bare notwithstanding the continuation of the cold weather, and wheel carriages are generally used for conveyance.
- 19 } My Son and family, I am indirectly informed, intend to visit me in the course of the present month. instead of next May. I fear the roads will be bad, and the passage unpleasant. Probably at this time there may be good sleighing in Vermont, but it cannot long continue after the sun’s declination becomes Northern. Their route I suppose will be by Rutland, Mount Holley & Bellows falls to Greenfield by stage, --- a tardy conveyance for rail-road travelers who move 20 or more, miles per hour, and send intelligence by an electric shock.
- 20 } Saturday M. cloudy, wind N.E. the day continues
- 21 } Col. Bryant arrived at noon from Chicopee falls.



In the evening my Son, wife and little Charles arrived from Burlington via Bellows falls.

19

Sunday M. fair, wind NE the  
day continued fair, cloudy wind SW

### Another Revolution in France,

Another  
French  
Revolu  
tion

This day we learn that a bloody revolution had happened in Paris; Louis Phillip has escaped to England with the Royal family, after abdicating his throne. The national guard, once with the people on the 23d of February, and the Palis Royal was attacked and within half an hour fallen to their possession. Five hundred lives were lost in the battle & shortly the Tuileries was stormed. A Republic on the model of the U States is proposed. The Royal throne was carried through the streets, and afterwards probably burnt. We may now look for the boody scenes as the reign of terror and perhaps for another war in Europe, in which we may be involved. The above new war brought to New York by the Steam Cam bra which left Liverpool Feby 27<sup>th</sup> ultimo

If

March 19		<p>If this Paris movement be ac [     ] to, by the people of France, the nation will again be come the disturbers of the peace of Europe, if not that of the world. The true policy of the other Govern ments of Europe, is to avoid any interference in the struggle. But if the same volcano formed, as in the former revolution, shall burst upon the world it will be difficult, perhaps im possible to keep clear from its sweeping lava. <u>Maratts, Dan</u> <u>tons &amp; Robespierres</u> still be found to accelerate its flow, and to drench the Country in the blood of its best citizens. May the nations of Europe, as well as the U. States, be saved from the hor ors of another <u>French Revolution</u>.</p>
	Reflec tions on }	
20		<p><u>Monday</u>. m. fair, wind S.W. the day cloudy: sun at the Equator <u>Col. Bryant</u> sat out for home in the morning cars: Some rain at night.</p>
21		<p><u>Tuesday</u>. M. cloudy, wind NW the day or PM, fair</p>
	Depos ite of Cash }	<p>This day deposited in the saving Bank at Greenfield \$400 at 5 per cent per annum, as per a small printed Book, delivered me, signed by Franklin Ripley Treasurer. My son Arthur transacted the business.</p>
22		<p><u>Wednesday</u>. m. fair, wind NE and day fair. My son sat out for Boston by the Cars, on rail road business.</p>
23		<p><u>Thursday</u>. M. cloudy, with snow falling, wind N; the day generally cloudy with some rain. Son Arthur re turned</p>

March turned from Boston, in the  
 23 evening cars. What rapidity!  
 24 Friday. m. cloudy & wind N;  
 at noon fair, & so continued.  
 The snow is now much diminished, and the ground nearly bare. We now have little from Congress & the General Court; and the Mexican War is becoming stale. The French disturbances at Paris may soon furnish new matter for contention. Should France adopt a republican form of Government in the present unprepared condition of the people the consequences could probably be a general war in Europe, and perhaps a renewal of the horrors of the former revolution.

25 Saturday. M. fair, wind NE  
 a fine clear day.  
 Daughter Isabella, sat out for Chicopee falls in the 6 o'clock cars. For about 2 hours will carry her home Col Bryant expects to remove the family from Chicopee to a farm in the month of April & or May. and have in view one at Agawam in W. Springfield which he thinks will afford him & them a support. He has acquired a taste for agricultural employments, and attended to its theory as well as in some degree its practice.

26 Sunday m. cloudy wind SW  
 day continued cloudy. The month of March, has thus far been about as cold & winter-like as that of February.

- March 27 Monday m cloudy & rainy;  
wind W, and a cloudy day  
followed
- Travels in the Slave states by Buckingham } Reading Buckingham's Travels in our  
slave states 2 Vol. 8 vos. I am thankful  
that I was born, and have lived in  
the northern states where slavery  
does not exist, and all men are free.  
Mr Buckingham's account of the  
southern people is as favorable as the  
truth will admit; but his picture  
at the best is, repulsive and in  
deed horrible. Life liberty and  
property are far from being pro  
tected by the laws.
- 28 Tuesday. m. cloudy, wind N.E.  
& some rain; the day the same.  
Son Arthur sat out in 10 o'clock cars  
for Burlington, leaving his wife & little boy  
with us until she goes to her Fathers  
at Halifax.  
Frank Henry arrived P.M. from  
Halifax. to carry his sister to that place  
The roads are now very muddy &  
bad for travelling.
- 29 Wednesday. M. cloudy wind S.W.  
sun soon seen and PM fair  
Elizabeth & her brother Frank & little boy  
sat for Halifax, in a single carriage~  
By the arrival of the Calidonia at  
Boston this week, having left Liverpool  
March 11<sup>th</sup>, we hear that France is es  
tablishing a Republican Government  
and that the nations of Europe are  
not disposed to interfere with its  
adoption. If the people of France  
are determined on & fitted for a free  
government who will object to their try  
ing the experiment. But I fear Robespierre, will arise among and  
rule the uninformed multitude.
- Late news from France }
- French Republican Government }

March  
29  
Reflec  
tions  
on

Effects  
on En  
gland

Dangers  
of Re  
publics

Should France succeed in establishing a Republican Government and be able to maintain it for a few years, it needs not the gift of prophecy to predict the fate of the neighboring monarchies.

The same radical spirit which now pervades France, will soon be found in Great Britain; and her enormous public debt, her taxes to sustain it, & the response of her government, will accelerate a revolution. So long as her army & navy retain their loyalty she may maintain her present government; but this loyalty being extinct, she will fall at once, from a powerful to a weak nation.

Under the workings of the present radicalism, which is now rife in the civilized part of the world, peace cannot long continue; and we may look for revolutions among the nations of Europe, whether for better or worse, is to be seen.

Republics would be preferable to monarchies, were all men informed and virtuous; but when these are lacking Demagogues, can lead a portion of the people into errors of the grossest kind; and introduce the worst principles. Good men may be repudiated as enemies to the people, and ignorance and vice be substituted. This is in a degree, the case in the United States. Republicanism may flourish for a while in France; but in a short time Demagogues will arise and mislead the people to the greatest political errors and [ ] confusion & disorder of the worst kind follow. But Europe must go through the process, and the result no one knows. I hope however the world will become better & man more worthy of his station

March 30 Thursday M. fair, wind SW and the day fair through out. Birds of various kind have appeared and winter seems to have passed off.

31 Tuesday M fair, wind SW; the day fair & pleasant with occasional clouds

Mex ican articles sent by D S Hoyt } I yesterday spent the afternoon at Horatio Hoyt's in looking at articles sent from Mexico by his son David S Hoyt, a soldier in the army at the City of Mexico: among which is number of Books in the Spanish language. I observed several period icals published in London, and some other works printed in the United States; also several books on tactics. Many of the works are embellished with elegant engravings including a taste among the people. I had not anticipated.

Books & imple ments of war } Among other articles were the dress of the Mexican troops & their war implements, such as swords, lances &c. with a cuirass & helmet of brass worn by the cavalry, and a uniform coat & cap of the infantry. The Cavalry dress I think, too heavy & unwieldy and [ ] [ ] decorated with useless ornaments, rendering the expense of the troops unnecessarily great.

Had the Mexicans relied less on Cavalry and more on Infantry, their battles might have been different in their results The Mexican Cuirassence, may have been taught field maneuvers, or a peaceful parade; but to bring them up to a line of well disciplined infantry & artillery, under a [ ] force, is [ ] easy movement, and none but the first rate Cavalry of long experience, can produce a useful effect. In all the charges of

March  
31

of Napoleon's best Cavalry, or the Infantry of Wellington, in the battle of Waterloo, they failed, & were repulsed with heavy loss. In general Cavalry act in support of the infantry and that order of battle which places them in the front line is reasoned faulty. In no instance in battles of Mexico have we seen a successful charge of the Mexican Cavalry; nor is it to be supposed their horses could be brought up to a line of fire.

April  
1 }  
April }

Saturday. M. cloudy with some rain & wind NW; the day fair

Con  
gress }  
proceed  
ings }

By the proceedings of Congress it appears, there is no relaxation of preparing for a further prosecution of the war with Mexico. The ten regiment bill has passed and it is proposed to raise additional volunteers. Has our Government other acquisitions in view? The Island of Cuba is an attracting object, and the present state of Europe offers a favorable prospect for its acquisition; and will our cupidity stop there? No! The plan of President Monroe and Mr. Polk will not then be competed. nor democracy guttled with conquest. Peace, many have flattered themselves, was about to reign over the civilized world; but, judging from present appearances, that happy time is far distant. Should the nations of Europe become republics, will they be less inclined to war [     ] can answer the question.

April  
1

In a Republic where the sovereignty resides in the people, it is entirely apt to run wild, and a few ambitious & unprincipled men may lead the majority to the greatest excesses. Witness France in her former revolution witness our own nation in the present unjust war with Mexico, and we fear other similar errors will be found in the world, even if the people become republican without the virtues essential to sustain them.

2

Sunday. M partially fair, wind NW & the day was fair, but with scattering clouds

3

Monday M. fair, wind NW, the day continued fair, with wind W, though the air was cool. Cloudy at night. Our News-papers are now filled with details of the French Revolution, from which it appears a Republican Government is to be established in that country, and the titles of nobility and every [ ] of royalty abolished, & universal suffrage permitted. Such a change in one of the most powerful nations of Europe, will doubtless produce great effects in that quarter of the world, and it is feared cause a general war. From the latest intelligence however, it seems that the other nations, are not disposed to interfere with the revolution,--a wise course it is believed.


French  
Revolu  
tion fills  
the papers }

If to support a free government virtue & intelligence are essential, then the question is: Are these found among the commonality of France? Of sufficient force to counteract the evil designs of unprincipled leaders?



April

2

 Re  
marks  
& reflec  
tions
 

Perhaps no nation in the world has carried the arts, sciences & literature to higher perfection than that of France. But this devotion is probably confined to but a comparative few, while the uneducated part may be in a low station, and national morality remain at a low ebb. The excesses of the former Revolution indicate pretty clearly what was the real condition of the people at that time; and on no other ground can we account for the horrible butcheries committed by Robespierre & other pretended friends of the people, during the “Reign of Terror” in the early part of that revolution. If the common people of France have become enlightened, and chaste, since that period, every patriot will rejoice. But when we look at the progress of error and the delusion among our own people since the adoption of the federal constitution, the prospects are far from favorable. If in some particulars we have made improvements, they are counteracted by others. In short we find errors committed little short of those of the monarchies of Europe. Where the people of a country are so enlightened as to counteract the designs of evil men, a republican government is a beautiful machine, but if the people are banking in political venture, it may become the worst. If the people of France possess this virtue, the revolution may be a blessing; but of this good men have their doubts; and should it result in the same confusion that followed the former revolution, the patriotic part of mankind will regret it.

April  
4

Letter  
from  
DS Hoyt  
at Mex  
ico

Tuesday m cloudy, and SW; the day continued cloudy with some rain

I have just read a Letter from David S. Hoyt dated City of Mexico the 29<sup>th</sup> of February last, and the North American of the 2d of March, a News paper printed in that city. He expresses a hope to obtain a commission in one of the ten regiments, now about to be raised by act of Congress. Mr Polk, however may not be disposed to look to the army for experienced men, in preference to his home favorites who claim a right to "the spoils".

The army is at the Capital ~~and~~ or at other places not far distant, and is represented as healthy; but the approaching hot season will probably put on a different aspect. From the time of his letter, I think he begins to see the folly of wild young men who look for happiness abroad and in the bubble of military show. If willing to accept an appointment in the army, he, it is presumed has an eye to the pay. His enlistment as a soldier, has to me been a singular step, inconsiderably made.

The letter advises his brother to remain at home & work with their father. This may cover a meaning which does not at first strike the eye. I had supposed that after the novelty was over, he would not find the life of a soldier strewn with flowers; and from some hints in the letter it appears, that a great portion of the troops are turning their eyes homewards. [—] with little indication for further service

The war spirit found among young men is an uncertain [ ] in [ ]

Re  
marks  
on

April  
4

Milita  
ry Spir  
it rise  
of }

and  
decay }

Clear fitness for the hostile field.  
Charmed with military show at home  
and raised by the stories of their fa  
thers who have seen service, on the ap  
proach of war, they eagerly place their  
names upon the recruiting officers en  
listment, put on the military dress  
and buckles, and think themselves  
happy; but as soon as they see and  
feel the hardships of the camp, their  
spirits flag, and home & friends  
absorb their thoughts, and the soldering  
life becomes disgusting; but they  
then find it too late to retrieve their  
error and submit to the iron hand  
of discipline with all the patience  
within their power; but still brooding  
over their unfortunate condition; and  
at the expiration of their term of service  
return home to relate their hardships  
and sufferings. But after a peace  
of 25 or 30 years, and a new gener  
ation has come upon the stage, the  
war spirit is again roused, and  
the young men who know nothing  
of war, are ready to enlist into  
military service to acquire "glory"  
and probably this will continue  
to be the case until our young men  
are better instructed, and the peace  
ful arts are duly appreciated.  
I would not however repudiate a war spir  
it in all cases, but compare it to defensive  
operations, and the support of the laws of  
the country. Military science in its ele  
vated branches, should be fostered; but  
it may be kept up in schools instituted  
for this purpose~

5

Wednesday. M. fair, wind N. and day  
clear with cool air.  
Our General Court has been in session  
3 months & is still full of business & Such  
protraced

April

5

Gener  
al Court }

protracted [ ] I have supposed might be avoided by proper Modes of performing the duties of the two branches under the present system the chief part of the business is preformed by Committees, while the other members are unemployed. This I would correct by a different mode of operation, which I think would cut off, at least one third of the time now spent, or rather respent. The great error as it appears to me, is intrusting so much of the business to Committees, and admitting Lawyers to plead before them, by which weeks are sometimes occupied, while the two branches have little or nothing to do, especially during the first month of the Session; nor could afterwards, but to give this silent vote on bills presented by the Committees. We boast of the security of our rights and liberty, from the full representation in the House, but it is a fact that the business is performed by a selected few. Much might be said on this subject.

6

Thursday. M. fair, wind NW; the day clear & pleasant.

The  
Troy  
Rail  
road }

We learn that the Petition for a rail road from Greenfield to Troy is not likely to meet with success in the Legislature. I have supposed a Charter would be granted as the easiest mode of getting rid of an Utopian project; but the boring of a Sims' hole through Hoosac mountain was an impediment not to be overcome by "three millions of dollars". When men give loose to their imaginations, they forget the rules of probability & economy.

April

7

Letter  
to a Gen  
tleman of  
Wardsbo  
rough }

Friday m. fair, wind W. the day clear, but rather cool, and NE Wrote a letter to S.G. Kellogg of North Wardsboro, concerning the Hoyt family, by request. The writer is a stranger to me, and seems to possess an antiquarian taste. so far at least as relates to genealogy. The family of Kelloggs has been somewhat noted in the Indian war in this part of the country. A family of that name was made prisoners when Deerfield was destroyed in 1704, Some account whom I have given in my Antiquarian Researches, page 195 & 222, to which I referred the writer of the letter.

on the  
Hoyt  
family }

Note The names of the Hoyt family captured when the town was destroyed were the following:

Fami  
ly of  
David  
Hoyt  
in 704 }

Besides the father, David Hoyt, Abigail Hoyt (his wife), David Hoyt Jr (killed) Jonathan Hoyt, Sarah Hoyt, Ebenezer Hoyt, Abigail Hoyt Jr. Of the fate of the families I have not been accurately informed, but supposed they were slain on the route up the Connecticut. Benjamin Hoyt, a son, fortunately escaped, and sometime after, left Deerfield and & planted himself in the S.W. part of Connecticut, I believe at Ridgefield, where probably, he found connections of the Windsor Hoyts, and raised a family.

8

Saturday. M. fair, wind W and the day clear & the roads are becoming dry~ We hear nothing important from Mexico during the week. The army is posted at various stations, and the men looking eagerly to their homes. The hot season is approach and many may yet be prostrated, by the malaria of the country, more fatal than Mexican bullets. The

April  
8  
The }  
Treaty }

The treaty as modified by our government I think will be accepted by that of the Mexicans, even at the loss of one half of her territory; and if our democracy is satisfied with this acquisition, she may consider it fortunate. She may continue a nation provided she is duly subservient to our cupidity.

9

The }  
French }  
Revolu }  
tion }

Sunday M. fair. wind NW;  
the day continued fair & clear.  
The revolution in France now absorbs the attention of the civilized world, and the important question is whether the French people possess the political virtue necessary for a republican government? Should it result in the confusion & distress of the former one, no patriot will rejoice at the movement  
The former revolution commenced on rational principles, when the people were under the oppression of the old government; but how soon it sunk to anarchy and to the iron hand of monarchy-More base & ferocious than ~~than~~ the people before experienced! Should the present movement terminate in a similar manner, all good men would mourn at the fatal experiment. We look to the next steamer for important information, and Shall be gratified if we learn that the revolution is successful, the liberty of the people safe and no war likely follow. But if the bloody scenes which shocked the world in the French revolution are to be reiterated & Europe plunged into war, every  
patriot

- April  
9 patriot will deeply depreciate  
the present movement as a prologue  
to a tragedy fraught with destruction  
and misery to mankind.  
In France many profound men are  
found, but, as in all old populous na-  
tions, a portion of the people are totally  
unfit for a free government, and  
liable to the imposition of designing  
demagogues, whose very existence de-  
pends on anarchy and spoil. When  
Europe is free from such men, and  
the people become enlightened & virtuous  
If in the present movement in France  
she finds no Marats, Dantons & Rob  
espierres, she will be fortunate.
- 10 Monday. M. fair, and wind SW  
the day fair with floating clouds.  
Elizabeth & her little Charles ar-  
rived at 11 o'clock from Halifax;  
had received two letters from Arthur,  
written at Middlebury, Vt. on his  
route to Burlington. The Rail road  
is now to be pushed on with all  
possible speed, with the hope of  
compleating it this season or by  
next January; but I doubt whether  
it will be so soon accomplished.  
Should the movement in France pro-  
duce a General war in Europe, the effect  
may be unfavorable to our rail road pro-  
jects by checking on trade & commerce  
& of course the money market in  
our commercial cities, which fur-  
nish a great portion of the money  
for their roads.
- 11 Tuesday. M. fair, and wind N.E.  
The day fair, and air pleasant  
Our farmers begin to plough their lands

April  
12

Wednesday M cloudy with some  
rain, wind SW; the day con  
tinued cloudy.

Effects  
of the  
French  
move  
ment  
on the  
other na  
tions of  
Europe

From the latest intelligence from Europe  
it appears the revolutionary movement  
in France is extending rapidly to other  
nations. Italy, Austria, Bavaria,  
Prussia, Germany, Holland & Belgium  
are partaking of the whirlwind; and  
even some of the Russian possessions  
begin to feel its sweep. Such a simul  
taneous movement indicates that com  
bustibles have been for some time  
collecting, and are ready for the fire.  
and we think the time is near when  
all the hereditary monarch of Europe  
will be swept from their thrones.

A gen  
eral  
war  
may  
be the  
result

and elective governments be substituted  
by the people. Whether this change  
can be effected, without a tremendous  
war, is to be seen. We hope that such  
a catastrophe will be avoided; but we  
confess, our hopes rest on faint prob  
abilities. Should the movement reach  
England, and prostrate the Government  
the rest of Europe would make but  
a feeble opposition to the spirit of re  
form, which has now become so preva  
lent among the people. When this  
spirit of reform becomes general in Europe, its  
monarchs may bid adie[u] to their thrones  
and retire to private life, reckoning them  
selves fortunate if they escape the fury of  
their enraged subjects.

Condi  
tion of  
England

Great Britain, we believe would es  
cape this revolatory movement were she  
free from her enormous public debt, which  
it is certain never can be paid & must  
at length be sponged: And however  
repulsive this may be to an honorable  
nation, the people will submit to it  
rather than to the heavy taxation  
with which they are now burdened.



April  
12

Re }  
marks }

and the government is compelled to put upon them. to sustain the public credit.

In these movements our Ultra democrats will imagine they see the approach of a political millennium, which is to correct the errors of the old governments, and restore man to his natural rights; forgetting however that unbounded liberty, may run into excesses as fatal as they have been under monarchs, as was the case in the former revolution in France, when the death of Monarchs, and the destruction of all distinctions on society were deemed essential to liberty, forgetting also that, that revolution ended on the establishment of a monarchy more iron handed than that of the Bourbons. But it is said the people of France have become more enlightened & virtuous than at that period: We hope this is the case, and that they are now fitted for a free government, and that Marats & Robespierres will not again be found among them

But others, with more knowledge of the nature of man, may entertain thoughts not less depressing than those of M. Volney when contemplating the ruins of Palmyra. "Reflecting (said he) that if the place before me had once inhabited this animated picture; who said I to myself, can assure me that this present desolation will not one day be the lot of our own country? Who knows but that hereafter, some traveler like myself, will sit down upon the banks of the Seine, the Thames, or the Zuyder sea<sup>12</sup> where now, in the midst of enjoyment, the heart & the eye are too slow to take in the multitude of sensations; who knows but he will sit down, solitary among silent ruins and

weep.

Volney }  
among }  
the Ru }  
ins of }  
Palmyra }

<sup>12</sup> He means Zuyder-zee, a shallow bay of the North Sea, northwest of the Netherlands.

April  
 12

weep a people inward, and  
 their greatness changed into an  
 empty name?

Reflec }  
 tions }

If this has been the fate of the once  
 flourishing countries of the eastern continent  
 what but the corruption of the peo  
 ple can account for the melancholy  
 condition of those nations; and  
 will not similar corruptions produce  
 similar effects at this time.

Gloomy }  
 aspect }

The present state of the nations of Eu  
 rope, presents a gloomy aspect, and  
 what will be the result of the present  
 revolutionary movements, none can  
 foretell. Let us hope that man  
 is becoming more worthy of his  
 dignity in the scale of human being  
 and that future history will present  
 a more inviting picture than that of  
 former times. In the establishment  
 of Republics our essential seems to be dis  
 regarded: namely political virtue, with  
 out which all governments of this  
 kind are but empty names.

In the United States where all should  
 be harmony, we see party spirit at strife  
 and the people as restless as under the  
 monarchs of Europe; and if the govern  
 ments the, shall become republics  
 it is a question whether they will be  
 less disposed to war & [ ] the present gov  
 ernments?

13

Col }  
 Bryants }  
 new }  
 purchase }

Thursday. M. cloudy, wind S.W.  
 and the day generally cloudy.  
 My connection Col. Bryant, just called  
 and informed me he had greed to  
 purchase the Tryan farm at South Deer  
 field; at the price of \$3000 said to  
 contain    acres. I hope the farm  
 will answer his expectations & wishes  
 The Rail road passes across the farm  
 and the depot is near. He says  
 there is a large quantity of wood on  
 the premises.

April  
14

Great  
Britain }

Friday m fair wind SW and the day cloudy & cool. With a view of forming an opinion on the stability of the Government of Great Britain, and the effects of the ~~present~~ whirlwind now sweeping over Europe, we have turned to the Geography of England & its statistics;, and we have been compelled to acknowledge, that not one favorable symptom is to be found indicating a recovery from her disease. The only hope of her restoration and continuance as a nation seems to be a complete springing of her national debt, and commencing a Government de Novo on economical principles. However mortifying this step may be to so honorable a nation, it is certain that nothing short of it will satisfy the revolutionary spirit now diffused among the people.

Views  
of }

Alison  
on the  
national debt  
of }

In the History of Europe from the commencement of the French Revolution in 1789 to the Restoration of the Bourbons, in 1815, by Archibald Alison F.R.S. E. Chap. 41<sup>st</sup>, inserted in the Appendix of E. S. Goulds Abridgement of Alison published in this Country in 1843, we have a pretty [ ] history of the public debt of Great Britain, and Mr Pitts plan for redeeming it by a sinking fund, which seems to have failed through the imprudence of the Government. The subject is intricate & requires financial knowledge, ~~with~~ of which but a few have bestowed much attention. The public debt of Great Britain, as stated by Mr Alison, amounts to the enormous

April  
 14  
 Amount  
 of }

sum (in the year 1832) of £782,667,234  
 with the interest of £28,341,463 per  
 annum. With this load upon its should  
 ers the nation must sink, unless she  
 throws off the load. Had the  
 plan of Mr. Pitt been adhered to  
 Mr Alison says, "the whole debt might  
 have been extinguished with ease  
 before the year 1840—"Irretrievable  
 ruin, has thus, he says, been brought up  
 on the state"; and he adds, "In two  
 centuries the name of England may  
 be extinct, or survive only under the  
 shadow of ancient renown." But  
 if this should happen within half  
 a century from the time he wrote,  
 his prediction would have come nearer to the  
 birth, if we may judge from present  
 movements.

Gloomy }  
 con  
 clusion }

Lesson }  
 taught }

our }  
 proper }  
 course }

The contemplation of the subject  
 is gloomy, and the lesson taught  
 is, that nations, as well as indi  
viduals, must keep within the rules  
of prudence & economy~  
 Ought we of the United States to  
 express gratulations for the movements  
 in Europe? This character is to be  
 determined by the results; and they may turn  
 out the reverse of expectation & wish  
 es. Prudence dictates that we wait  
 for the results, and then act accord  
 ing to circumstances. We ought to rejoice  
 at the amelioration of the condition of  
 our fellow men; but that all the na  
 tions of Europe are fitted for few govern  
 ments is not to be supposed; and com  
 plete freedom among such, may end  
 in anarchy & misery. Who believes  
 that the mass of the people is all parts of Aus  
 tria Turkey or Russia are prepared for  
 free governments? When

April 14		Where a people are well in formed, possess political virtue, and the glory and happiness of the county takes possession of the breasts of all, Rublian forms may be adopted as preferable to others. Without these essential qualities a republic may be but an empty name. In the United States we flatter ourselves that the people are thus prepared for [f]reedom; but we are compelled to say, that in too many instances demagogues are able to mislead the people, by deception & selfish views, to dangerous & destructive courses, which may ultimately prostrate the Government
Quali fica tions of repub licanism	}	
15		<u>Saturday</u> . M fair, wind NE but soon changed to SW; the day continued fair, with many broke clouds, This day President Everett of the Cambridge University, delivers an address on the death of J.Q. Adams, before our Legislature, at Boston. The address we presume will be copious and highly interesting. We shall look for a printed copy, which no doubt will be ordered by the Legislature. A more extensive Biography of the deceased patriot may be expected, and we know no one more able to do it justice than Mr. Everett. From Congress, on Mexico, we have heard nothing important during the week; but much from Europe in rela tion to revolutionary movements which may involve that quarter in a general war & ru in
An ad dress this day from Mr. Ever ett, at Boston	}	

April  
 16      Sunday M fair, and wind W; the  
          day fair and pleasant  
          and nature is now preparing to  
          “burst into birth.” Whence this  
 Reflec } admirable circuit of the seasons?  
 tions    The reflecting mind perceives a  
          Motor, and provident to his  
          creatures, by uniform laws!  
          “To thee whose temple is all space,  
          Whose alter earth, sea, skies,  
          One chorus let all being raise.  
          All Nature’s incense rise.”<sup>13</sup>  
 17      Monday. M. fair wind N.W.  
          and the day very clear & ground dry.  
          This morn Elizabeth returned from  
          Chicopee falls, with her little Charles.  
          and had an agreeable visit at  
          Col. Bryant’s—brings material  
          for two gowns for myself.  
 Invit }      The day so fine and the roads  
 ing    dry, invite to a trip about the  
 weather } town: But  
          Unfitted now to travel the mead,  
          or climb the hill with former speed.  
          The mice still [ ] crows to rave  
 Reflec } Through vale, and frequented grave.  
 tions    Where joy & peace and sport were found  
          And who brought its pleasing sound.  
          A relish for such scenes in one  
          of my age, maybe thought out  
          of place. But far be from me  
          as my friends such [ ] philoso  
          phy “as would render no [ ]

---

<sup>13</sup> Alexander Pope, *Universal Prayer*.

April  
 17 to the fine sensibilities of our  
 youthful days;  
 When organs felt not times decay  
 And [     ] not with day.  
 Even in old age, while the mind  
 retains its recollections, visiting old  
 scenes, impart, a pleasurable  
 sensation not always appreci  
 ated by the unreflecting mind.

18 Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind N.  
 and cold air. At 11 o'clock  
 A.M. a flash of snow; the  
 day generally cloudy & cold, pro  
 ducing a drowsiness I do not  
 feel in warm air, which pro  
 motes perspiration. Under this  
 diathesis I have little inclination for  
 journalizing, or exercising the mind.  
 In some animals cold produces  
 torpidity, and its effects on me  
 seem to be something similar. Is  
 this peculiar to the old of the hu  
 man race? I submit the question  
 to the physiologist. and also whe  
 ther ardent spirits are useful to the old,

Effects  
 of cold  
 on  
 the aged }

Ardent  
 Spirits }

remarking, by the way, that I make  
 use of none, not even wine. Occa  
 sionally I take a moderate draught  
 of cider with my food, but prefer  
 it diluted with water.  
 Formerly a portion of ardent spir  
 its were supposed necessary, and par  
 ticularly for soldiers in the field, which  
 perhaps was an error. With the practice  
 of our troops in Mexico I am not in  
 formed

April  
19

Fall  
of snow } }

Wednesday. M. cloudy with snow falling, and presenting the Novel aspect of 3 inches of winter dress on the ground; wind N, the day PM fair or clear.

suffer  
ing }  
Buds }

The harmless summer birds, now [ ] about our buildings to procure a pittance of food; but I fear they will suffer, before the snow dissolves; their instincts seems not to have forewarned them of their sudden change. I have known a later fall of snow, but of rare occurrence.

Rail  
road }  
facilities }

The winter aspect of the morning, which was truly dreary, has in some degree changed in the course of the day: the roads are bare & some patches of land on the hills begin to appear, but the day continued rather cold with a currant of air from the northward. But while our roads are obstructed with snow & mud, we behold a start of portable houses passing along, with the rapidity of a vicarious shuttle. What a facility in travelling! Fifty years ago our fathers would have frowned at the project, as the ravings of a maniac.

Zeal  
for } }

The success of these roads and their rapidity of [ ] and is absolutely bewitching, and [ ] the numerous effects of their construction. & often without counting the cost. In their zeal, men now think of cutting down mountains, or tunneling 4 or 5 miles through their bases, as if the task was Lili putian, and millions of dollars & paltry sum



- April 19 Time and reference will back us, that none but the great arteries of trade and a few branches can be maintained without serious loss to their owners.
- 20 Thursday. M. fair, wind N. and air cold: The day continued fair and the snow nearly disappeared. Wind changed to W. and the air cool for the season. Anxiously looking for a steamship from England, with details of the revolutionary storm in Europe
- 21 Friday M. fair, wind SW; the day continued fair but not warm.
- General Court } Our General Court is still in session and probably will continue into May. That four months are necessary for the performance of the State business, I cannot readily conceive. The Great State of New York, I believe, finishes its Session within three months once the State of Vermont in less than two. How is this to be explained, without supposing our State to have adopted a slow mode of transacting business? See page 80 for some hints on this subject.
- The House has passed an order for printing 6000 of Mr Everett's Eulogy on John Q. Adams. Any production of this cast, from the pen of Mr Everett will find admirers.
- 22 Saturday. M fair, wind SW the day continued fair till after noon at then became thinly cloudy

April  
 22

Fatal  
 ity of  
 the troops  
 in Mex  
 ico

Re  
 marks  
 on

Period  
 ical war  
 spirit

Accounts from Mexico it is said  
 [     ] in representing the mortal  
 ity among the soldiers There as truly  
 alarming, Some state it as high as 1000  
 but in the present inactivity of the  
 troops, and the consequent increase  
 of nostalgia it is not improbable  
 As the heat increases the mortality may  
 be more fatal, and vast numbers  
 prostrated by the malaria of the country  
 before our army evacuates it after  
 the war closes, we probably shall  
 see a horrible list of deaths from sick  
 ness, which indeed prevails in all armies,  
 and especially in hot countries. This  
 fatality was entirely overlooked ~~by~~  
 by our [     ] volunteers, who  
 rushed to Mexico for sport. But  
 the next generation will forget the  
 fatal lesson, and seek the bubble “meeting  
glory” at the cannon’s mouth, without  
 a thought of the justice of the cause.  
 Such is the mass of young men!  
 and nothing short of “killing off”  
 will correct their error Hence  
 a peace of more than thirty years  
 will be a rare occurrence.  
 In asserting this I am aware  
 I am at variance with a portion  
 of our good people, who are look  
 ing for better times from the  
 perfedibility of man. But alas!  
 I am constrained to say, that the  
 present aspect of the world gives no power of such  
 an enviable condition.  
 Are we as Republicans becoming  
 more reasonable or just?

Look

April	Look at our war with Mexico.
22	What but a formidable accession of territory was the primary object of our democracy? What the present movements in Europe, but the prostration of all the legitimate governments, for the introduction of theoretical schemes, which the practical wisdom of nations has deemed destructive to the order & welfare of the people? If the nations of Europe are to be charged to repeal
Queries } in point }	lies, let us first look to political virtue in the people, as preparatory
	Where this virtue prevails, and the people will govern their unruly passions & prejudices, they may look to free governments for welfare & happiness~
23	<u>Sunday</u> . M. fair, wind SW; the day fair, but hazy P.M.~ By the arrival of the <u>Sarah Sands</u> at N York, 18 days from Liverpool, we learn that the movements in Europe are likely to produce war between various nations. Armies of <u>Observation</u> are ordered to the field, and in France some opposition to the revolution is seen. England, is said to remain firm, but Ireland is in a bluster. Let us hope that the storm will subside, monarchy be stayed, and the people <del>will</del> learn that <u>regulated obedience</u> is essential to liberty~
24	<u>Monday</u> M. cloudy and wind NW but the sun soon seen; the day fair & rather cool & windy
Polit } ical } virtue }	

April  
 24  
 A favor  
 able  
 feature  
 in the  
 French  
 Revolu  
 tion

anti  
 slavery

a view  
 to the  
 south  
 ern peo  
 ple

End  
 of slave  
 ry

In the revolutionary movement  
 of France one favorable feature  
 is seen: it proposes to emancipate  
 all slaves within their territories.  
 This causes some alarm in the  
 people of our slaveholding states.  
 While tenderly alive to the liberties  
 and freedom of the French  
 people, they insist on holding  
 two or three millions of their fel  
 low men in the chains of Bondage  
 and consider any attempts to  
 cast off the shackles no better  
 than robbing of their legitimate  
 property; and at the same  
 time call themselves republicans  
 of the first order. When men have  
 arrived at such a pitch of absurdity  
 it is vain our attempts to reason  
 with them. They may be left  
 to the operation of causes which  
 will [     ] present something  
 more effective than arguments.  
 If it be true that the southern peo  
 ple cannot exist without slavery, then  
 it follows irresistibly, that their  
 duration is but short. By the  
 acquisition of new slave states, slavery  
 may be prolonged; but retribu  
 tion justice will not always sleep  
 and the very spirit now awake  
 in Europe, will at length give it  
 the gravitas And whether mon  
 archies or Republics prevail in Eur  
 ope Slavery must come to an end.  
 and man no longer be allowed  
 to [     ] his fellow man, under  
 the imperial idle that he has  
 that right Let the advocates of the sys  
 tem, pause tremble & awake to their fate

April  
25

News  
from  
Europe }

Re  
marks  
on }

Tuesday. M. fair, wind SW  
the day fair and air moderate.  
I am informed that the steam ship Acadia  
has arrived at Boston from Liverpool  
bringing ominous accounts of the rev  
olutionary movements in Europe. Is  
that part of the world so  
long noted for its arts, science  
and civilization, to fall from  
its glory, and like the old  
eastern nations, to be known only  
in history? the thought is  
depressing—But we are told that  
Europe is just emerging from  
a dark age, and that man is  
now to be restored to his long lost  
liberty—pleasing though, were it  
a reality. If, as history informs  
us, the world has existed nearly  
six thousand years, and man has  
made no progress towards national  
governments, what are we to say  
of an overriding Providence whose  
acts are kindness & benevolence as is evident  
from the phenomena of na  
ture every where exhibited? If  
man has this long been immersed in  
darkness, is it to be supposed, his [ ]  
[ ] from it, by his own efforts?  
Enthusiasm may embrace the belief,  
but so long as men exhibit no more  
parity than is now seen, I may be  
allowed to doubt whether they are  
about to emerge from darkness to the full light of day  
and banish error from the world. That  
the governments of Europe require amendments is not to  
be doubted, but to [ ] them at once, is a dangerous  
movement and may end in anarchy.

April 26 News by the Acadia	<p><u>Wednesday</u> M. cloudy wind SW and cool air; day cloudy.</p> <p>The most important news by the <u>Acadia</u> relates to England and Ireland. An immense meeting of <u>Chartists</u> is proposed at London &amp; of Republicans at Dublin. The Government has forbidden the assemblage in the former City, by proclamation, but the Chartists persist in the measure &amp; bid defiance to the Government; in consequence of which strong military forces are ordered to the capital, &amp; the citizens furnished with arms. Deeming it unsafe for the Queen to remain in London she has been sent to the Isle of Wight. If the troops remain loyal, there may be no contest at the City; but should they prove otherwise and refuse to act against the people, the Government of Great Britain is at an end. Troops are absent to Is</p> <p>land, but the people are ready for any revolutionary movement. Never has the British nation seen so perilous a time, and probably her <u>glory</u> is about to fade, and her foreign possessions to fall into other hands. We wait with intense interest, the next arrival from Liverpool.</p> <p>Remarking upon their decline and fall. <u>Alison</u> says, "Nations like individuals were not destined for immortality; in their virtues, equally is in their vices, their grandeur as their weakness, they bear in their bosom the seeds of morality; but in the passions which elevate them to greatness, is to be discerned the unceasing operation of those principles at once of corruption and resurrection, which are combined in humanity, and which, universal in Communities as in single men, compensate the necessary decline of nations by the vital fire which has given an undecaying [ ] to the human race."</p>
England in a [ ] state	
Probable result	
Alison's Remarks Chap. 41	

April 27      Tuesday m. fair, wind N.  
 and the air softened; the day  
 continued fair & the air agreeable

Object of the }  
 of the }  
 Chartists }  
 in En }  
 gland }

The object of the Chartists in En  
 gland seems, not to have generally  
 known in this country, but the fol  
 lowing appears to be the substance of it.  
Universal sufferage vote by ballot in the  
election of members of Parliament, an  
equal distribution of the electoral dis  
tricts, the payment by Government  
of members of Parliament, and a pro  
vision for annual parliaments.

[ ] }  
 [ ] }  
 peti }  
 tion to }  
 Parli }  
 ament }

This renders the House of Lords elec  
 tive, but the Crown may remain  
 hereditary. A petition embracing this  
 plan, is to be presented to Parliament of  
 200 yards in length." If the peti  
 tion is refused, the Chartists are  
 said to be resolved on a Revolution  
ly force, which if successful will  
 result in a Republic.

If the people is determined on  
 this course, it is in vain for  
 the Government to oppose it,  
 even with its military force.

Whether a reform of the Govern  
 ment, or a complete revolution  
 is the result of the movement, is  
 it to be supposed the national  
debt will be maintained, when it  
 is known that it never can be discharged,  
 by any efforts whatever?

A sponging of the public debt may be  
 reduce some of the creditors to poverty:  
 in such cases it would be the duty of  
 government to afford such aliviation  
 as it might be within its ability. In

April

27

Aspect  
of Great  
Britain }

In a word, I think the present condition of the British Islands for our Commiseration rather than our hostility and hearty congratulations. So far as the government of a country [—] oppresses it the welfare of a people, we may rejoice in their overthrow. But let us remember that in old nations of limited extent, where there is an overgrown population and land is clear, numerous poor people will be found, and this will continue to be the case under all forms of Government.

Re  
marks  
on the  
poor of  
old Na  
tions }

If in America we have comparatively few poor ~~men~~ is it not owing to the vast unsettled lands in the western regions where cheap farms may be obtained? When these lands are filled with inhabitants, will not the poor multiply, as in the old Countries of Europe and the people be subjected to poverty, without the fault of their governments? In this condition the right of depositing their votes at the ballot box, at the dictating of some urgent demagogue, would not be deemed a high privilege, while their hungry families are to receive no relief. The truth is, poverty is the effect of causes beyond the control of governments, and a community where one part of the people are rich, the other part are poor; nor is an equality of condition possible under any form of government.

Pover  
ty un  
avoid  
able }

28

Friday. M. fair, wind SW; the day hazy but the sun generally out. Vegetation has made by little progress and the trees reclaim their winter aspect and no warm days have arrived.



April 28		Isabella & two daughters of Col. Bryant arrived by the af ternoon cars. The Col has pur chased the <u>Tryan farm</u> at S. Deerfield & now takes possession of it for a residence. I hope the fami ly will be satisfied with its locality Leaving their previous residence at Chicopee falls may excite some disagreeable sensations; but this must be supposed when circum stances require a change of situa tion. The farm covers about
Col Bry ant & his farm	}	acres, part of which rather low and wet, but may be drained.
Village S. Deerfield	}	The village has recently been much enproved & the rail-road and depot give it an additional spring. It has two trading stores <del>an</del> post office and an excellent Tavern, at which 5 or 6 roads concentrate and a bridge over the Connecticut connects with the village of Sunderland
29		<u>Saturday</u> . M. cloudy & foggy with some rain; wind N; the day cloudy till late afternoon. At 10 ¼ A.M. Isabella & Co. left us for S. Deerfield in the cars, to take possession of their new residence. That my feel ings are highly interested in their prosperity, will not be doubted. The farm will require care & labor to fit it for profitable cultivation, and is now in the hands of one who has a taste for such improve ments, and has studied the ele ments of Agriculture to some extent.
General Court	}	Our General Court This body it is said <u>talk</u> of closing its sessi on next week, [    ] 4 months

April  
 29  
 Its long }  
 session }

just one third of a year!  
 The Committees it is presumed have  
 been assiduous in their business, but  
 in the mean time, how have the  
 other members been employed?  
 We mean nothing disrespectful; but  
 would urge a careful revision  
 of the Rules and Orders of the  
 two branches; there these pro  
 traded sessions will be explained.

30  
Sunday. M. fair wind NW and  
 cold air; The day clear, but  
 the sun's rays seen to act but futilely  
 on the atmosphere. The roads  
 are dry & afford good traveling.

May  
 1

Beau }  
 ty of }  
 the }  
 Season }

Reflec }  
 tions }

Monday. M. fair, wind  
 and day partially fair, & cloudy PM  
 We now enter upon a month in  
 which nature exhibits the most  
 lively aspect, adapted to our pleasure  
 and enjoyment. What reflecting mind  
 can view this scene of nature with  
 out admiration, and the convic  
 tion of the existence of an omnipotent  
 agent, operating by direct, or second  
 ary laws. To say these adaptations  
 are irrelevant in matter ~~in-matter~~  
 would afford no explanations of the  
 phenomena; for still [ ] must  
 be seen, and this being admitted  
 an over ruling power is demonstrated  
 But, say some few, we ought not  
 assert to this because we cannot account  
 for the origin of this power; at the  
 same time they assert that matter  
 has existed from eternity with all  
 its properties. But I must say I  
 perceive no force in their argument  
 By admitting a Cause of causes  
 all the penomena of nature  
 are at once explained.

May

1

Chart  
ists meet  
ing at  
London  
a fail  
ure

Re  
marks  
on

By an arrival of a  
Steam ship at N York from Liverpool, we  
are informed that the Chartist move  
ment at London, the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> ult.  
turned out a failure, the popu  
lace of the city proving loyal to the  
Government. This result may  
for a time, arrest the progress of  
revolution in England; but it  
may gain rouse, with increased  
vigor, unless the expenses of the Gov  
ernment are diminished. The demo  
cratic spirit, caught from us, will  
never rest until all monarchical gov  
ernments are prostrated; and then may  
commence a reign of Demagogues not  
less oppressive than monarchies,  
in which men of honor & imminent  
talents will be repudiated, as are ene  
mies to the people, as is now seen  
in some parts of the United States.  
Where a Webster & a Clay are less  
esteemed than the vilest stump ora  
ter, or a vociferous demagogue  
We wish for reforms in every govern  
ments where the people are oppressed  
but we think they should not be  
attempted in a storm, nor outstep  
the ~~the~~ improvements of the people  
in political science & moral prin  
ciples. Liberty without re  
straint is a false name: it must  
be regulated by wise laws—  
laws which protect property as  
well life; and to give them due  
effect time and practice are  
necessary.

Danger  
of chang  
es

In a change from monarchy  
to a free government of univers  
al suffrage the mass of man  
kind, having imbibe a prejudices against  
their former rulers, are apt to en  
ertain feelings of revenge which  
lead

May  
 1  
 Former  
 French  
 Revolu }  
 tion

lead to violent excesses totally in  
 compatible with true liberty  
 and the harmony of society  
 as was seen in the former  
 revolution in France, in which  
 a portion of the people was  
 transformed to demons;  
 and even in our free govern  
 ment, with all its [       ]  
 we see the present patriots re  
 pudiated, as the enemies of  
 the people. What then will be  
 the effect of unbounded freedom  
 in Europe, before the mass is  
 prepared for it? We say then  
 that the march towards freedom  
 is progressive, and rests on the  
 intelligence & virtue of the people.  
 In these changes of government,  
 the greatest changes arise from the  
 influence of ~~the~~ demagogues in  
 propagating delusion among  
 the uninformed part of community.  
 That the present movement in  
 Europe shall result in correcting  
 the abuses of Governments, is the ar  
 dent wish of the patriot; but if it  
 shall result in anarchy, who  
 will say the people have been bene  
 fitted by it? In our own government  
 though elective, abuses are seen, and  
 when the people become corrupt, these may  
 be as evil as in the Governments of Europe.

Influence of  
 Demag }  
 ogues

2  
 J. Hen }  
 ry

Tuesday. M. cloudy, wind SW.  
 and the day mostly cloudy & some rain  
 This morning Esqr. Henry & his daugh  
 ter Elizabeth & little Charles, left  
 us for Halifax, he having arrived  
 last evening.

May 2 Wrote a letter Lewis L. Arms at Glens-Falls, concerning grave stones for my Daughter Fanny in Letter to L. Arms } terred at that place. My son Arthur to be at that place about the 10<sup>th</sup> instant to see the stones erected and pay the bill for them~

Mexico, few accounts from } Since the arrival of the Accounts of the political storms in Europe, we have little of the treaty with Mexico. Now & then a letter writer expresses his doubts whether the treaty will be accepted by the Mexican Government. But what can they expect from a delay, Are they waiting for the sickly season to thin off our troops? Or do they flatter themselves that Mr. Polk will relinquish part of the territory described in the treaty. This he dare not do, for he is acting for a party whose object was territory from the past invasion. Mr Polk well understood this plan, when he was the cleared Gen. Taylor to advance from the Nueces to the Rio Grand, and he has followed up the plan faithfully, and the slave states, will thank him for his perseverance and probably reward him at the next election of President, if he will consent to a nomination of which we think there is little doubt; in which case Mr Webster & Mr Clay may remain in the back ground. The idea of electing a man of high talents is idle in the extreme. and carries an ignorance of the nature of democracy. Were a Washington to be offered, he would be rejected as an aristocrat. If

Mr Polk }

Next President }

May 2			
Low state of public opinion	}		<p>If this be a correct statement of public opinion in the United States, what highminded knowable patriot can contemplate it with complacency or feel a pride in the name of America. Such a degraded condition of the public mind in a country where universal suffrage is the basis of the government, affords verifications of the predictions of the most violent [ ] of the republican system. Let us hope a more enlightened period will eradicate such low prejudices, and render us more worthy in the scale of being.</p>
3			<p><u>Wednesday</u>. M cloudy, rain last night &amp; this morning. wind North. the day continued cloudy, with some rain [ ] the day. Thus shut out from the Sun's rays, the air remains cool, and I am inclined to sleep; When the heat is so great as to produce perspiration, the effects are quite different. During fits of languor in the aged is a small dose of ardent spirits a useful invigorator? Is so I have it to learn, as it is not my practice. Simple drinks and light meals seem to be the best preservers of health; but a moderate use of <u>prune wine</u> may not be injurious, an article not often found in our country towns; or if there found, the cost has been too great for general use, and cider is substituted, a barrel of which is bought for less than a gallon of fashionable wine. Ardent spirits are less used than in years past, and whether necessary for a person or health is a question.</p>
A dull day	}		
Re marks on health	}		

May  
4  
Blossoms }  
appear }

Thursday M. fair, wind N.E.  
and the day fair & pleasant. Some  
of our maples begin to show blossoms,  
and few such days will clothe them with  
leaves: some of the daffodils in  
our garden, show their yellow blossoms  
But unlike most others, these blossoms  
seem to require but little heat in their  
production.

5  
Mexi }  
can }  
army }

Friday m. cloudy with rain;  
wind S.W. and the afternoon  
partially fair. and vegetation makes  
a slow advance. The Suns declination  
is now about 16° N, and nearly ver  
tical at the Mexican City, at noon. General  
Butler's troops may soon find employ  
ment for their physicians & the ten new  
regiments, yet to be enlisted!  
Gen. Scott, shorn of his laurels, it is  
believed, wishes to inhale the air of a more  
northern latitude, leaving his modest  
Gen. Pillow to his Lionidas letters  
The history of this war will present  
the singular spectacle of a successful Gen  
eral and yet a degraded commander.

6  
Fail }  
ure }  
of the }  
Chart }  
ist of }  
England }

Saturday. m. cloudy, wind S.W.; sun  
out before noon & day fair & wind N.  
The failure of the designs of the Chartists  
at London, will probably give a check  
to the revolutionary movement in England,  
and also to that of neighboring nations of  
Europe, but, France may submit to the  
fury of a Paris mob. The Government of  
England it is stated, organized 200,000 Con  
stables in London, who proved loyal and  
deterred the Chartists. Europe may not  
be soon a revolution as as we had antic  
pated, and our hasty congratulations my  
prove premature. Long established systems  
of Government are not to be changed at a low

[ ]

May  
6

Knowledge & virtue essential in Republics

Remarks

Popularity short lived

they are progressive and must keep pace with the improvement of the people on political knowledge and virtue. To suppose an ignorant, or a corrupt people can or will administer a Government wisely is a gross absurdity. and to suppose men in such conditions will elect agents fitted to govern, is another absurdity. In the old populous countries of Europe where a large portion of the people are uninformed, free governments would soon end in anarchy. Even in the United States where the people are deprived of virtuous instruction, we find men elected to offices for which they are totally unfit; and this will continue to be the case so long as the people are unable to discriminate between the good and bad. In our new countries we sometimes find worthy men elected to office; but to insure success they are compelled to be silent upon the vices of the people, who are to elect them.

But in a Government of universal suffrage no one, however eminent in talents & worth, can long retain popularity, for demagogues will always be ready to rob him of it. We need not go back to the history of ancient republics to prove this fact. Our own history will present instances in which even a Washington and his co-patriots were stigmatized as vile, enemies of their country and corruptions of the principles of republicanism, because they foresaw the fatal tendency of the political doctrines of the French revolution of 1790. What progress these principles have made in the U. States since the days of Washington, is known to the casual observer.



May 7		<u>Sunday</u> m. fair with pleasant air, and wind NW, PM cloudy
Thunder shower	}	and a slight <u>thunder</u> shower occurred from N.W.— <u>the first this season</u> . Fair at sun set.
8		<u>Monday</u> . m. fair, brisk NW wind and the day fair, air rather cool.
Plum blossoms appear	}	<u>Plum</u> blossoms begin to show, and some of the maples, their foliage, but we have, as yet, had no <u>hot</u> weather, or such as to render a fire in my room, unnecessary. but my <u>animal</u> thermometer is not a very good discrimination.
9		In the afternoon the atmosphere became hazy & the air cool.
		<u>Tuesday</u> . m cloudy and rainy
		Wind N, and the day mostly cloudy.
Gen. Court still in session	}	No account of the close of the session of the General Court is yet seen. It has however, granted in the two houses, the petition for the Rail Road up Deerfield River, through Hoosac Mountain to the west line of the state, towards Troy.
Green field & Troy R. Road	}	The grant no doubt was made on the ground that the charter <del>grant</del> would be the most ready way to put the project to test by placing it on the prop a <u>test, the raising of the money</u> . Another grant is, we understand, is made for a rail road from Greenfield to Grouts corner.
Remarks on	}	We of Deerfield would not lay a shovel on the way of either road, but we regret to see men so far forgetting the rules of prudence & probability, as to imagine that a <u>hole of 4 miles, or more</u> , can be bored through Hoosac mountain, suitable for rail road cars, & comely passengers through without suffocation in the smoke of the engines. The opinions of Engineers has been taken in relation to the [     ] but among them, is there one experienced in such an undertaking?

May  
9  
Tun  
nels  
through  
Moun  
tains  
fallacy  
of on  
R. Roads

The truth is, no Engineer, however experienced, can determine with any degree of certainty, the progress and expense of a tunnel of the extent of the one proposed through Hoosac mountain; and I think I may safely predict, that, "if attempted, it will be abandoned, and the projections sadly disappointed. Imaginary data may be assigned and calculations made, but both as uncertain as the wind and storms of the season. We do not say such a perforation is an im possibility, but when we consider the plan \_\_\_\_\_ and design of the present project, they appear at once as their Utopian character.

Were there no rail road from Boston to Albany, and Massachusetts should offer her whole resources in aid of one, we might look for a route over the mountains; but we believe that the wildest imagination would not look to a tunnel through four miles of Hoosac mountain.

Where such obstructions are found to rail routs, the plain language as heard "Thus far shalt thou come, and no further."

10

Congress  
still in  
session

Wednesday. m. cloudy wind N.W. the day generally hazy & cool, Congress still continues in session & nothing have we seen which indicates a close; A history of the transactions of that body from the commencement of the Mexican war, will present an anomaly of a singular character. Mr Polk it is generally agreed, began the war, and without justifiable cause, and in defiance of the Constitution His object was clearly seen by his electors. namely the acquisition of

May  
10

Strict  
ures  
on }

territory, on which his party had previously fixed their eyes, and was ready to pounce, the instant a favorable opportunity offered. But the blindness of the Whigs of Congress was not anticipated. It was believed that so violent an infringement of the Constitution, would not be submitted to in silence. But all this we have seen, and in nearly every measure Mr. Polk has recommended prosecuting the conquest, Congress has complied, by strong majorities in both houses. What patriot [ ] this course? We hope the Presidents outrageous stride of the Constitution, will not be drawn into a precedent in future disputes with neighboring nations. That honorable exceptions were found among the members, though few, is gratifying; but that strong majorities in Congress, are found to rush blindly into the President's scheme, is lamentable, and forebodes the destruction of the Constitution and a departure ~~from~~ to abandon every principle of political morality. History, we trust, will not be silent on the transaction though there may be a disposition in American writers to gloss it over. The advance of General Taylor's force from the Nueces to the Rio Grand will never admit of disguise: the movement was a calculated one, and, the acquisition of the northern part of Mexico, the object. Sophistry may turn & twist words at its pleasure, but this object can never be disguised or rendered doubtful.

11

a mob  
in Paris }

Thursday. M. rainy, with wind N & NE the day continued generally rainy By the arrival, at Boston of the steam ship Brittania, we have intelligence of an attempt in Paris to put down the provincial government, on the 16<sup>th</sup> ult. Through the influence of Ledru Rollin & a club of socialists, a mass of 150,000 assembled in the Charge de Mars crying at "Down with Lamartin away with the Provincial Government!" The military force was called out to the amount

May 11 omin ous }	of 100,000 men to defend the government by which the mob were intimidated and at length dispersed. This may be the beginning of a reign of terror. But at any rate it proves that in the old populous cities of Europe a portion of the people lack the requisite virtues of freemen.
Compo sition of the mob }	This mob was, no doubt made up of the dregs of society, which always abound in old nations, whose ideas of liberty are but licentiousness and unrestrained as free governments be must be divested of the mob spirit, and licentiousness must be restrained. The Provincial Government may not be aware of the task it has undertaken. Without a military force they could not exist for a day.
Task of the new Govern ment }	Whatever confidence this government has reposed in the patriotism and good sense of the middling class of people of France we think that confidence was shaken on the appearance of the Paris mob. The men composing the Government m[a]y be intelligent and honorable, and acting, as they suppose, for the welfare of their country; but it is possible, that while looking at the bright side of community, they have not duly considered the dark cloud, which rises from the sinks & stews of all old populous cities, where knowledge & virtue are at a low ebb. That the middling c[l]ass of the people of France possess the knowledge requisite for a free government, is hoped; and the hope would be strengthened were the excesses of the former revolution forgotten and symptoms of reform were more clearly seen.
12 Close of Session of G.C. }	<u>Friday.</u> M fair, wind N. and air cool; the day fair with ma[n]y clouds, broken Our general Court closed its session on Wednesday evening last, after sitting 127 days.

May  
13

Blos  
soms }

The  
treaty  
with  
Mexico }

Re  
marks  
on }

Saturday. M. fair, wind South  
and day fair, with [    ] clouds  
Apple blossoms appear; also on the  
Cherry trees; but the weather remains  
rather cool for the season.

The latest accounts from Mexico, say the ratification of the treaty makes slow progress. What can she expect to gain by delay? She must have learned that to claim rights which she is not able to defend, is in vain; and when Mr Polk ordered General Taylor to advance from the Nueces & invade her territory, she ought no longer to have been at a loss for the cause of the movement. Perhaps she thought that the sober sense of our people would recoil at the injustice of the invasion, and restore her rights: If so, she mistook our avarice; but she must have seen the readiness with which our Congress acceded to every measure Mr. Polk recommended for prosecuting the war he had so wickedly commenced. If she still doubted the object of the war, the sending of the agricultural regiment of Col. Stevens to California ought to have removed the doubt. In short, every movement of the war on our part, demonstrates the design of the war. Viz. the seizure of one third or an half of the Mexican territory, and Gen Soetts expedition to Vera Cruz, was to render the Mexicans more submissive. In all this Mr Polk has acted the part assigned him by the party who placed him in the White house. The plan was however, of an older date, as is obvious from the declaration of Mr Monro when he was President, and since reiterated by Mr Polk. If in any instance Mr P. has varied from the wishes of his party, it is in the purchase money promised to the Unions, when

May		when the <u>whole</u> of the demanded
13		territory was to be held as an indem-
		nity for the expense of " <u>heating</u>
		<u>the poker</u> "
14		<u>Sunday</u> m. fair, wind W. and
		cold and day similar.
Cold	}	It would be difficult from
weath		
er		any known laws, to explain what
		appears to me to be a fact, namely
		the decrease of the temperature
		of the summer season; but if
		my recollections for 60 or 70 years
		can be relied on, the fact is clearly
		established; and if this be ad-
		mitted, is the change to be
Re	}	explained by the clearing our
marks		
on		country of its woods? At the first
		view of this process, it would appear
		that heat of summers must increase
		by admitting the sun's rays to pen-
		etrate the earth's surface; but, I am
		apprehended that evaporation
		from the surface is increasing by
		opening the ground, and it is
Evap	}	known that evaporation always
oration		
effects		lowers the temperature of a sur-
of		face from which it rises. In
		dense woods the sun's rays are
		shielded and of course the evap-
		oration is less than from the open
		ground. For the effects of evapor-
		ation on temperature, see the experi-
Infre	}	ments of <u>Dr. Wells</u> , as detailed in
quency		
of thun		his <u>Treatise on Dew</u> , which I think
der show		throws much light on the subject.
ers		As further evidence of the decreas[e]
		of our summer temperature, the
		decrease of our thunder showers
		may be addressed—the latter I think
		cannot be denied by critical observers.

May  
15

Monday m. fair, wind W  
and brisk air softened since  
yesterday, the day fair.  
The Springfield Daily Republican  
of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant says, "Opposition  
to the Western Rail road Corporation  
appears to be one of the great cha  
racteristics of the past Legislature; and  
this probably operated in favor of  
the Tunnel road as much as any  
original love for the new project  
itself" and, it adds: "It friends were  
fortunate in coming forward with  
their request at a moment when  
opposition to the rival corporation  
was at its height. Another year per  
haps they would not have fared so  
well" But the old corporation  
need not be alarmed; for many years  
will elapse before a tunnel will be bored  
four miles through Hoosac Mountain, and  
sufficient ventilations be prepared to con  
vey the smoke of the engines from the  
suffocating hole. True indeed, the grant  
of the Charter indicates hostility to the  
western road, not difficult to explain  
But if the Legislature really believed  
the project practicable with a capit  
ol of three & half millions of dollars, we think  
they have evinced more knowledge of  
Utopian than of physical Geography  
and the principles of mining.

16

Tuesday m. cloudy, wind South & the  
day cloudy. Nothing interesting  
appears from abroad; but we  
look eagerly for accounts from the  
revolutionary storm in Europe. which  
is raised to prostrate all the old gov  
ernments in that quarter of the Gloobe  
We of the free states in America  
may express joy at the relief viz  
the oppressed in Europe; but with  
what

May 16	what consistency people of the slave states gain in the jubile, while they hold in the chains of bondage from two to three millions of their fel low man, who are bought & sold like cattle, and goaded to labor by the whip of their masters, com pared to which the oppression of the most callous tyrant in Europe or Asia, are tender mercies. An “ <u>institution</u> ” so fraught with injustice & barbarity will not, and cannot be long, be sustained by the people of a republic.
17	<u>Wednesday</u> . m. partially fair wind N.W. and day fair <u>Elizabeth</u> retuned from Halifax with her Father Henry. (afternoon) From the various accounts from Europe, it is extremely doubtful what will be the final result of the present movements. In France there is a variety of publical sen timent, and whether the nation will submit to the dictation of the prime movers in Paris, is uncertain The Convention for forming a Constitu tion ought not be under the influ ence or fears of the “social clas[s]es” of that city, and it would act wisely in assembling at some other place where public opinion might be expressed undisturbed by the <u>toocsin</u> . But whatever of evidence the constitution may embrace, it will find but feeble stability without the sanction of the dictatorial spirit of Pa ris; and when the people become divid ed into parties, under violent demagogues than elections will partake of corrupt tions not less ruinous, than our own country now exhibits in miniature.
Euop ean accounts	
Re marks on	



May 18      Thursday M. fair, wind W.  
and day clear & pleasant.

arriv }  
al of }  
my son }      Mr Henry left us in the morning  
for Halifax, and PM my son Ar  
thur arrived by rail cars, about  
4 o'clock His route via Whitehall  
Troy and Springfield—a circuitous  
route from Burlington Vt but is  
preferred to the direct stage route via  
Bellows falls and mount Holly.

mecha }  
nical }  
improve }  
ments }      Distance of places has become a sort  
of negative quantity. But as if de  
sirous of more rapidity, we now  
attempt to convey intelligence  
hundreds of miles by electrical shock  
yet in these & other improvements  
in the mechanic arts, let us bear  
in mind, that man creates no new  
laws, but merely applies those of  
nature to his purposes. The pow  
ers of steam, electricity, chemistry  
[     ] have existed form their  
first establishment by an omni  
potent primer mobile, and now  
has only discovered their appli  
cation. When he attempts to go be  
yond this, he meets disappointment  
and at once perceives his littleness  
Let him then, with modesty for his  
guide, keep within his limits, and  
he will find no want of powers es  
sential to his place and his happiness.

Hint }  
con }  
cern }  
ing }      Friday m. fair, wind S.W. and  
pleasant air, giving life to vegetation  
the day continued the same and  
something like summer weather  
much the warmest we have had  
this season. Cloud in the  
south, at sun set, gave some  
thunder, but distant.

19

May  
20  
Thun  
der  
Gen  
eral  
Court  
expense  
of to  
this state

Two  
causes  
assigned  
for it

Saturday. m cloudy, wind SW  
the day became fair before noon.  
and continued so with an oc  
casional overspreading of clouds, with  
some thunder.

A writer of the Hampshire and  
Franklin Express (Amherst) complains  
of the expense of our General Court  
in the late Sessions, which he puts  
down at upwards of \$86,000  
indeed an alarming sum for  
this small state. But the writer  
seems not to be aware of the real  
cause of the expenditure: Viz. the 1<sup>st</sup>  
representation of towns instead  
of districts, and the to slow mode  
of transacting the business under  
the present Rules & Orders of the  
two houses. Under a proper  
representation and judicious  
rules, we think one half of  
the time and expense, might be  
saved, and the rights of the peo  
ple equally well guarded. We  
have touched occasionally upon  
this subject, and we think it  
is time for the people to look  
to it. The sum of \$6,000  
dollars, we think, hardly covers  
the expense of the session with  
its appendages. Errors that  
admit of a remedy, should not be  
continued because they have been  
adopted; nor on the other hand  
should innovations be attempt  
ed long practice without a  
probability of benefit.

The great error in our Legislature  
business I concur to be the intrust  
ing so many petitions to the decision  
of Committees.

May 21      Sunday. m. cloudy  
 wind N. but soon fair. and  
 cloudy alternately, with some  
 rain, small showers, with  
 thunder

22      Monday. m. cloudy, wind  
 N. the day cloudy with some rain.

Depart  
 ure of  
 Son &  
 family }      In the morn my son, wife &  
 little Charles, with their Brother  
 Henry, who arrived last night, Sat  
 out for Burlington Vt, via Spring  
 field Greenbush, Troy and Sar  
 atoga Springs. They take this  
 circuitous route in preference to  
 stage coach passages. From the  
 Springs they are to proceed to Glens  
 Falls to attend the erection of  
 stones at my Daughter Fanny's Grave  
 then by Sandy-Hill to Whitehall,  
 & there in steamboat to Burling  
 ton. Mr Henry is on a tour of  
 observation, & thinks of visiting  
 Montreal. The party will reach

Sara }      Saratoga Springs before sun set where  
 toga }      they expect to tarry two or three days.  
 springs }      to swig the water, which nature  
 pours out from her mysterious  
 laboratory, unabated in its pe  
 culiar properties.

Re }      A few days may be agreeably  
 marks }      spent at the Springs during the hot  
 on }      season, when the waters are  
 but relished, added to which is  
 the intercourse with people from  
 all parts of the United States and  
 other parts of the world. If when the

May 22		throng is great, some of the depredators of society are found, they are generally few, and the greatest portion are respectable members of society and such I have always found them in my visits to the place, not however very inviting from its location on a soil rather Common and forbidding.
Character of the visitants	}	
23		<u>Tuesday.</u> m. cloudy, wind N E the day generally clouded.
Sickness of the army in Mexico	}	Recent accounts say that our troops in Mexico, begin now to feel the effects of the climate, and that General Twiggs estimates the loss of men about equal to a Regiment per month. This is not a greater loss than I had anticipated, among the volunteer corps of the northern states
Anticipated	}	Aware of this effect of their hot season the Mexicans may be willing to prolong the negotiations for a peace. Should severe sickness occur, our Army might be annihilated, or rendered incapable of defending the conquered part. At any rate it is not to be doubted, that the troops are looking with longing eyes to their homes, which they left while under the blind delusion of infatuated democracy, common to wild young men, who learn only by fatal experience
The War Spirit Common to the young	}	The loss by sickness we may never fully know, but after the war we shall probably hear something of its distresses in appalling colors. But the [    ]

May  
23

Its  
natu }  
ral  
cause }

In }  
France }

In Amer }  
ica }

24

will be lost on another generation who will again learn it by the same fatal process: and soldiers' will never be found wanting in a war however unjust & unnecessary. Even the people of France seem to have forgotten the disastrous campaign of Napoleon, in Russia in 1812, as well as in the subsequent events of the War. From this disposition in man, may we infer that war is not to be wholly avoided so long as the nations of the world form separate Governments and possess different interests? How faint then, are the hopes of those who are looking for universal peace, and even flattering the implements of war shall be beaten into plow shares, and spears into pruning hooks? Indeed the world seems this happy consummation. That we in America, where millions of the human race are held in the chains of bondage, are near this happy condition is too absurd to admit of a moments indulgence. and our present war with Mexico, shows our sense of justice and humanity, towards a nation unable to defend its rights. If such injustice is to form the basis of our great ness and political character what Patriot would consent to partake of its horrors?  
Wednesday m cloudy, wind SW  
The cloudy weather commenced last Sunday in the afternoon & has continued to this time. The day continued cloudy  
and

May		until the clap, with some rain
24		General Scott arrived at Elizabeth
Gen.	}	town NJ last Sunday, and joined his
Scotts		family. He returns a <u>veteran Gen</u>
arriv		<u>eral</u> , but a <u>disgraced commander</u>
al		a problem to be solved by demo
		cracy.
25		<u>Thursday</u> . m Still cloudy, wind
		<u>South</u> . At noon the sun looked
Long	}	upon us and the rest of the day was fair
cloudy		From Sunday to PM to 12 oclock
weath		the day=90 hours, during which the
er		sun was seen but a few minutes,
		and considerable rain fell. In the
		shower which occurred late in the
		afternoon on Sunday, the papers say
		that the lightning struck in various
		places, as far south as New Haven
		but no lives were lost. Such a pro
		tracted observation of the sun is uncom
		moncan, here of late years. During
		most of the time I found a fire agreea
		ble. After so long an absence
		of the sun's rays, Their return
Re	}	is cheering. "O Sun! Whence thy
flections		everlasting light?" ( <u>Ossians Carthon</u> )
		Art thus self-balanced in the
		Heavens, a dust thous revolve
		with they planets around some other
		body unknown to us? When we
		thus attempt to expand our
		thoughts, we soon fall back and
		feel our bitterness, and are irri
		sistably led to acknowledge
		the existence of a great wise
		& incomprehendable Being, [ ]
		[ ] & Governs the Universe,
		by unerring laws, which require
		an amendment by <u>experiment</u>

May	<u>Friday</u> m. cloudy, wind
26	SW, Sun out at noon. P.M. generally cloudy, with some slight rain from showers
27	<u>Saturday</u> . m. fair, wind NE the day fair with some haze. The <u>Loco foco Convention</u> , held this week at Baltimore, for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency, made choice of Gen Cass of Michigan. A man well educated to carry on the schemes of democracy. The Con vention well knew this candidates and his hostility to Great Britain. We had supposed <u>Cuba</u> would be the next object of acquisition, but from this selection it appears the Canadas may be the next to receive the <u>fraternal hug</u> , and then the British West India Islands: Though the slave states are not very desirous of <u>North ern</u> acquisitions, they do not rest at case, so long as Canada furnishes an asylum for their absconding slaves, and <u>Delinda est Carthago</u> , is their motto. The present condition of Great Britain may expedite the <u>plan</u> and no one is more ready for it, than the proposed Candidate Possibly, however, the people may throw off their <u>blinder</u> , and listen less to their Demagogues who would plunge them into ruin, for their own promotional places.
Loco foco Con vention	}
nomi nation of Gen Cass	
Fur ther plan of Con quest	

In

May  
27

Popu  
larity }

How  
sustain  
ed. }

In a letter to the Convention Mr Polk declined a re nomination and expressed a willingness to retire to private life, the wisest act of his administration, which has not been strewn with flowers to the extent he had anticipated. Though faithful to his party he may have perceived that his popularity was not likely to continue through a second term, while so many aspirants were looking to his place, and numerous others to offices under a new administration, in which, a new set of favorites would be putting in their claims to the "spoils". Under these impressions Mr Polk may have learned that faithfulness to his party is no guaranty of continued popularity; and that the "post of honor is a private station." Should the nominee of the Convention, succeed in obtaining the White house, he will be surrounded by hords of greedy applicants for offices, and finding it impossible to gratify the whole his popularity will in turn {—} give way for another who will bestow, his favors on another class of sycophants; and "The same ambition can destroy or save, And make a patriot as it makes a knave"<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*



May  
28      Sunday M. cloudy but  
sun soon out with wind SW; the  
day fair, with occasional clouds  
on a general haze over the sky

29      Monday. M. Cloudy, wind  
SW, air cool and the day  
fair with brisk wind.

Demolition of the Antiquated  
House in this village.

Demo  
lition  
of the  
old  
House

This old tenement having being  
become inconvenient for residence,  
the owner, Mr Henry K. Hoyt, is  
now taking it down to give place  
room for erecting a new house on the  
site. The precise age of the House  
is not known, but we believe  
it was erected seven or eight years  
after Philips war. When Lothrop's  
company was destroyed at Bloody-Brook  
in 1675, the inhabitants left the village  
returned to Hadley, in Hatfield, ~~and it was~~ and  
it was burned by the Indians. In 1677  
a small number of English attempted the  
building of Houses, but were attacked  
and captured by the enemy. In  
the winter of that year the General Court  
Ordered "That a garrison be sent to Deerfield  
and that the inhabitants prepare to ~~to~~ ~~build~~  
~~build~~ to rebuild the town in a compact  
order, and that the inhabitants repair  
there this winter, that 20 soldiers be  
sent there"

Its  
histo  
ry

But it appears no successful efforts were  
made to rebuild until 1682. If the pre  
sent house was built in 1684 its age at  
this time, is 164 years, it may be less  
where the people of the village saw that  
the old house was to be demolished, they  
assembled and appointed a Com  
mittee to point out a plan to preserve

May 29	<u>relic</u> for future generations
Plan to pre serve it }	The Committee after various plans proposed the one included in the annexed <u>printed sheet</u> , and distributed it as a circular to sundry gentlemen; but though a few responded to the circular, and offered their aid, the sum was totally inadequate, and the plan was given up.
Fail ure of it. }	The house will be known only by history & the <u>views</u> that have taken of it. But it is intended to preserve the Door containing the marks of the Indian hatchets, and some other interesting parts shewing the perforations of musket balls.
State of the tim ber in the Old house }	On taking down the building, the timber was found to be generally in a good state of preservation excepting a part of the sills; the brick in the walls and chimney, the same. In the structure of the frame peculiarities were observed, differing from the modern modes of framing. Under a wooden casing on the side of the front door an <u>iron horse shoe</u> was found suspended by a spike or nail, which it is supposed had some relation to the notion that it was a protection against the prevalent notion of the time in relation to <u>witchcraft</u> . The house was standing at the time of the <u>Salem mania</u> , and if the people have believed in the efficacy of the iron shoe, they exhibited more wisdom than sanguinary Court of the County of Essex.
Relict found }	

May  
29

Born in this old mansion  
on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1765  
and the residence of my minority  
it never failed to bring to my  
mind interesting reminiscences Here  
I listened to the stories of our  
fathers, of Indian depredations,  
of suffering humanity, of hair's  
breadth escapes: Here too I listen  
ed to the thrilling events of our  
revolutionary war, and learned  
the name of Washington & his co pat  
riots, and here was taught lessons  
from industrious & respectable  
parents, whose admonitions  
should have been better regarded  
Here too, while my father kept  
a public house, I met with trav  
elers of various characters, the  
political gentleman, the indust  
rious man of business, and the  
bar-room tippler, affording ex  
amples worthy of imitation, or  
those to be shunned. All evid  
ence of the manners and customs  
of the times. I might here re  
late many anecdotes fresh in  
my recollection, as connected with  
the old Indian house. With these  
recollection, it will not be doubted  
that I feel regret at the destruction  
of the venerable monument.

30

Tuesday m cloudy with light  
rain, and S.W. wind. The day  
continued the same We  
have a remarkable propor  
tion of cloudy weather.

May  
 30  
 Europe  
 in a  
 pre  
 turbed  
 state

Liber  
 ty in  
 France

Its  
 success  
 doubtful

Accounts from Liverpool of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, represents Europe in a perturbed state, war in Italy, Prussia, Denmark and insurrection in Prussian Poland, and it appears that a general war in Europe can not long be avoided. France is making progress in the formation of a Constitution but her ultra democrats may plunge her into war with some of her neighboring nations. If how ever she remains in peace a few years, and until her parties are organized, like our own, she will find a perpetual war at the ballot boxes; & if she is prepared for a republican government, then I am much mistaken. Her present leaders may be well disposed, but are they aware of the influence of denying demagogues who will soon be seeking for plans regardless of the public ideal? Thus has our Country for an example Under the blinding shout for liberty the principles of radicalism may be covered up and the people be lead to excesses they had not dreamed of. When the people of France become nearly equally balanced on political points, it needs not the gift of prophecy to foretell their condition. The first step towards republicanism is political virtue, and if the people of France possess it, they differ from the other old nations of Europe

May  
30

Process  
of Cor  
ruption }

For our own country, under a Constitution strictly republic, and where all should be harmony, what a clashing we see at the ballot boxes where the best informed men, especially if they possess property, are deemed aristocrats enemies of the people, and the vociferous demagogues the pure friend of his Country. When a people are thus imbued with popular corruption, they are evidently on the road to ruin. This contamination ~~course~~ began in our Country in the administration of Washington, and he was charged with having [ ] [ ] the principles of republicanism.” Alas! sainted Heroe, hadst thou lived at this day you would have been deemed unfit for a place of public trust. This growing spirit is the Curse of our Country, and the unenlightened patriot foresees the consequences. But “where ignorance is bliss, ‘tis folly to be wise.” and admonition useless.

31

Wednesday m. fair, wind N.W. & brisk, air cool; the day cloudy & fair by turns. We hear little important from Congress on Mexico of late, and whether the treaty will be ratified by the latter is a question, but what will they gain by delay? Are they waiting for the sickly season to further thin our ranks? Perhaps [ ] is their policy.

June

1

The  
weath  
er }

Thursday. M fair, wind brisk from N.W., and cold; the day continued the same, & pretty full from clouds, and wind brisk. Up to this time we have had no hot weather, or such as to render winter clothing uncomfortable; nor has the month of May exhibited its usual pleasant aspect. But as the sun is near the northern tropic and increasing its meridian altitude we may look for a change to warm air.

Dimi  
nution  
of tempe  
rature }

If it be true that our summer temperature is diminishing, the cause is not to be sought in any known principles of astronomy; for the motion of the Earth on its axis, and its revolution in its orbit, are invariable, and the ~~slow~~ diminution of the inclination of the equator to the ecliptic is too low to produce a visible effect in a limited time; and this diminution, according to La Place, will not alway continue, or ever produce a coincidence of the planes of the equator & ecliptic.

2

Friday. m. cloudy, wind NW & air cold: at noon fair and so continued indicating more agreeable weather. The effects of this cold air on my defective machine are unfavorable, & I feel them more sensibly than in the uniform cold of winter season.

June  
3

Ash  
man }  
speech }

Saturday. m fair, but  
hazy & cool, wind; the day  
was mostly cloudy, but the air softened  
Mr Ashman sends me his  
speech on the Revolution in France  
and emancipation of its Colonies.  
which I have read with great  
satisfaction. His replies to the [ ]  
[ ] assertions of Mr Bayly of  
Virginia are cutting & truly ap  
propriate. Mr Ashmans whole  
course as connected with the war  
with Mexico has evinced a spirit &  
force in but a few of the present  
numbers of Congress. Had there been  
a majority of such men, in the two hous  
es, Mr Polk's unconstitution war with  
Mexico, would not have been sustained  
for a moment. But alas! but few  
of his determined characters were found  
in the two branches of Coness. Mr  
Ashman's course must be highly satis  
fary to his constituents and applaud  
ed by every patriot within the U.  
States, and our Congressional District  
may well be proved of its Representation.

Europe }  
still }  
on a }  
whirl }  
wind }

The latest accounts from Europe are  
far from flattering; the revolutionary  
whirl wind still prevails, and  
in some instances bloody conflicts  
are said to have occurred. What will  
be the result is to be seen. The  
national assembly of France is  
forming a republican constitution  
but if amidst the shouts of liberty  
and equality, the best system is  
adopted, it will be unprecedented.  
But however wise the plan may be

June	}	if based upon universal suffrage, <u>one thing is certain</u> : within a few years, the people will divide into parties, under ambitious leads and perpetual war will pre vail at the ballot boxes, proba bly more destructive than at our own. This contest by rais ing the passions, will increase in violence. Unprincipled men desirous of places, will side with popular party, or that which is most easily <u>managed</u> by de ception, and the enlightened <u>patriot</u> foreseeing the evil, will endeavor to check its pro gress. This will increase the exertions of the unprincipled as pirant who will find nothing more powerful, in effecting his designs, than to create an im pression in his party that their patriots are aristocratical, and enemies to the liberty of the peo ple. This impression once fixed men of high talents and integrity would <del>are</del> repudiated, and those of oppo site characters are chosen to places of trust. In a government where all are eligible to offices this is the direct course, and the only remedy is in the virtue & intelligence of the people; and on no other basis can the French people maintain a republic in its purity, Are they thus prepared?
3		
The		
French	}	
Consti		
tution		
	}	
Its		
prob		
able	}	
course		
	}	
Repu		
diation		
of good	}	
men		



June	<u>Sunday</u> m. fair, wind N.
4	and air agreeable the day much the same.
5	<u>Monday</u> m cloudy, light rain and wind N and the day continued cloudy. foggy.
Peace with Mexico }	We are informed that the pending treaty has been ratified by the Mexican Government, and of course Mr. Polk and his party have obtained the territory they had on view, when Gen. Taylor was ordered to invade Mexico in the advance to the Rio Grand. Mr Polk has attempted to disguise this movement and design by more pretences, but none but the willfully blind have been deceived.
Mr Polks first object accomplished }	The money stipulated to be paid to Mexico, by the treaty May be paid in good faith; but our democracy will very readily find means to evade it by getting up some new dispute with that country; and that this may be the case is more probable than that the promise will be fulfilled. at any rate, our democracy will be slow in the payment of money for a territory, which they claim as an indemnity for the expenses of the war. But Mr Polk must be paid " <u>for heating the poker</u> ". A young democrat the <u>genuine school</u> has expressed his regret to me at the terms of the treaty, and no doubt he agrees with many of a more advanced age who hold it or

June 5 following language. What! should we, after so much brave fighting, and the conquest of the Capital and other cities, give them up to the rascally Mexicans, who audaciously opposed our invasion and killed so many of our brave volunteers! No! We should hold the Mexicans in subjection until they have learned the enlightened lessons of our democratic schools, and then admit them into our union; but should they be found averse to the ~~to the~~ study, we should compel them to embrace our notions of liberty; Besides, their rich mines ought not be lost sight of, since they might be convenient in furnishing "a hard money circulation."

On the peace } Other plans if conquest are kept under the veil, but now & then heated zeal breaks through the cover, and the possession of Cuba, Jamaica and the British provinces on our north and northeast quarters is developed, in no equivocal terms; and the nomination of Gen. Cas to the Presidency, brings to view some of the future schemes of our ultra democrats, by which a portion of the people seem willing to be led, blind folded. Should honorable men be restored to confidence, Ultra democracy would cease to prowl upon the public welfare. But so long as the yelp of this path is listened to by the people a political whirlwind will continue to disturb the repose and happiness of our country? And

since

Language of democracy }  
 On the peace }  
 Future plans }  
 Ultra Democracy }

June 5		since their yelping packs are found in all free countries, who believes that France under her new government, will be exempt from them? Granting to <u>M. Lamartine</u> all the virtues it is said he possesses, should he be placed at the head of the nation. Would his popularity outlive one <u>term</u> ?
Remarks on Gov ernment	}	
Popu larity unstable	}	With the purest intentions and the most faithful services, he might find a powerful party opposite to him, and be repudiated as an aristocrat, and an enemy to the people. Even our Washington was thus vilified by a party who were tired with "hearing him <u>called the just</u> "
		Such is man when unrestrained by wholesome laws, and political virtue, on moral obligations of ten wanting in uncultivated minds, or those which have received a faulty education.
		The republican doctrine, that all political power resides in the people, is true, but this power is not always rightly applied; and a majority may imbibe principles incompatible to a just & rational government; and when this is the case, the majority may become as despotic as an absolute monarchy. History furnishes examples of this kind, and none more base than [   ] exhibited in the <u>first</u> revolution of France when the people knew nothing of a republic but the name. When a

June  
5

people become highly corrupt and lose sight of political virtue. they are evidently unfit for a republican government.

In the formation of such governments it is an error to suppose unbounded freedom is to be allowed, since some individual rights must be relinquished for the good of the whole. By this relinquishing rights we can spare, we enhance the value of the remainder, and in fact obtain new rights.

But in all communities, to be right men must be just & virtuous; and while these qualifications are duly regarded society moves smoothly on. That we of the United States, have, in a degree, lost sight of these preserving principles is evident from our present political divisions, which seem to be increasing as we become olden.

Under the spurious name of radical reforms, we are in danger of losing the sustaining principles of free governments, the most threatening symptom of which is, the violence of party spirit, kept up by the influence of unprincipled pretenders of liberty. who would sacrifice our dearest interests to obtain "the spoils"

6

Tuesday m. cloudy, wind NE but fair before noon & wind SW; and the day fair, but many clouds the air cool

Whig  
Convention }  
tion }

The Whig Convention of the U States is to assemble at Philadelphia, to [ ]  
for

June  
6  
to meet  
at Phi  
ladel  
phia }

Proba  
ble }

Demo  
cratic  
rapid  
ity }

7

for the selection of a candidate for the Presidency, after the expiration of Mr Polks term. Mr Webster, Clay & Mr Lane are the prominent men. Mr Webster no doubt, is the man who should receive the votes of the Convention. But his residence in Massachusetts and his eminent talents, will probably prevent his selection, in which case Mr. Clay will probably be the nominee. who being an inhabitant of a slave state will be more congenial to southern whigs. For vice President Gen. Taylor may be named, but who will be the next Executive head is very doubtful. In the Loco foco selection of Gen. Cass the plans of the party no doubt are well understood; namely, the accession of Cuba Jamaica, and the British provinces on the N. & N.E. of the U. States. The moment Great Britain is shorn of locks by the revolutionary movement in Europe our democracy will be ready for the execution of the plan, and it will be easy to contrive a scheme for the accession of Cuba and such other W. India Islands as our cupidity may require. But the time may come when France will claim a share in the spoils.  
Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind NE and cool air, the day the same. Last evening a letter from Elizabeth at Vergennes, giving an account of the tour to that place and the transaction

June	}	at Glens falls, in placing stones
7		at my daughters grave, which
Letter	}	with the aid of Mrs. Arms.
from		She thinks is <u>certainly</u> [     ]
my Son	}	the embankment not being
and wife		entirely demolished. The head
		stone 23 inches wide & 4 feet 2
		inches long—Cost of the stones
		\$18.75. She sends me a copy
		of the inscription, which appears
		to be the same I furnished Mrs.
		Arms & her son <u>Lewis</u> . (See
		page 107) The stones, when erect
Grave	}	ed, she says, appeared well, This is
stones		the last respect we can show to the
visited	}	deceased; but as the <u>distich</u> of
in Glens		the inscription say:
falls	}	“O’er the cold turf where they pale relics sleep”
cemetery		If this grave-yard, recalls meon
		cholly sensations, so does the Country
		in its vicinity, from the incidents
		of the war of 1755. About 6 miles
		north, on the road to Lake George,
		is the ground where Col. Ephraim
Reflec	}	Williams and many other value
tions		ble men, from our section of the province fell in
		an ambuscade on the 8 <sup>th</sup> of September
		of that year, and where there
		bones rest in obscurity in the prim
		itive woods, about a quarter of a
		mile south of <u>bloody pond</u> . Other
		interesting events might be noted
		for which see my <u>Antiquarian Re</u>
		<u>searches</u> (Chapters 17, 18, & 19)
		Of the utility of monuments for
utility	}	the dead there may be a difference of
of mon		opinion but I believe that mankind in
uments	}	general are gratified in viewing them.

June  
7

Their }  
effect }

They recall recollections of the deceased more forcibly than any other testimonials. On entering a grave yard where some eminent man is interred, we eagerly search for the spot, and if no memorial marks it, we doubt the taste of his co-temporaries. Who can visit the tombs of Washington, Franklin or other noted patriots, without use full reflections? And in standing over the last home of those of less elevated walks of life, who have sustained commendable characters, we are impressed with reflections of a useful character. On visiting mount Auburn, in Cambridge, or other moderately ornamented cemeteries of the country, we feel these useful sensations to a high degree. In this view, monuments for the dead are useful to the living. But let them be moderate in their expense and durable, and always within the means of those who erect them: extravagant structures add nothing to the solemnity of the view~

8

Thursday m. cloudy wind NE and cool air, which renders a fire necessary in my room. PM partially fair, air more mild, and, with a shower of rain.

June 8 For about 19 days the weather has been uncommonly cloudy with considerable rain, and air cool, producing an unfavorable effect on my health  
 9 Friday m. fair, wind N, and the day was fair & cloudy alternately.  
 Letter to to A & E. } Wrote a letter to my connection at Vergennes Vermont, acknowledging the receipt of theirs of June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2d from that place, expressing my satisfaction at their operations at Glens-falls, in placing stones at my Daughter's Grave now almost obliterated & forgotten by the people at the place  
 Glens falls village } Gens fall village is now a place of mercantile business. At the commencement of the French war of 1755 the country from Fort Edward to Lake George, was a wilderness. Soon after that war ended in 1763, a Mr Abraham Wing built a small house and barn at the place ~~village~~ which was burned by a detachment [ ] under Major Carleton in 1780; but most of the buildings have been erected since the peace of 1783. No part of our country has been so remarkable for military operations as this region, and a minute detail of the whole would fill a volume interesting to military men.  
 10 "Set where thou wilt thy foot, thou scarce can tread Here on a spot, unhallowed by the dead"<sup>15</sup>  
Saturday m. fair, wind SW the day was fair & cloudy with considerable wind and rather cool

<sup>15</sup> Robert Southey. *The Poet's Pilgrimage to Waterloo*.



June  
10  
The Con  
vention }

Gen  
Taylor  
the nom  
inee }

Re  
marks }

We are informed that Gen. Z. Taylor has been nominated for the Presidency by the Whig Convention at Philadelphia. His qualifications are military, and whether if elected, he will find himself at home in the White House is a problem. But he is supposed to be an honest and honorable man, who will pursue the welfare of his country, without regard to popular clamor. He may now look for vituperation from democracy, who will never forgive him for suffering himself to be placed in opposition to their favorite nominee who is ready to carry out their plans & designs to the farthest extent. If the General should be successful in the Election, and put a check upon the cupidity of the dominant party, he would richly deserve the thanks of the patriots of the country. I have supposed Mr. Clay would be choice of southern Whigs, but it seems that nothing can stand before military éclat. Mr. Webster's eminent talents I had supposed, would bar him from the White House. In the selection of Gen. Taylor the Convention consulted expediency, he being the available candidate. We must now try him, and hope he will not prove a Tyler.

June	<u>Sunday</u> . M. fair, wind NW
11	and the day fair & wind brisk & at night cool. Hot weather seems to be tardy in its approach while the sun is near the tropic of Cancer, or its greatest declination, and [ ] Z.D. at noon only 19°--05' refraction
12	<u>Monday</u> . m. fair, wind NW brisk & cool, and the day <del>fair and</del> cool.
A Letter to a Cor respond ent }	Wrote a letter to S.G. Kellogg, North Wardsboro, Vermont, giving him an account of the Hoyt family at his request, he claiming to be a descendant of my half sister, Hannah (Hoyt) Hamilton, who he says was his Great-Grandmother. When I find a young man making such inquiries, I am willing to aid him if within my power.~
Gen Taylor nomi nation }	<u>Nomination of Gen. Taylor</u> to the Presidency. This selection is not received very cordially by the Whigs of Massachusetts who had fixed their eyes upon Mr Webster; but have they yet to learn that no eminent <u>Civilian</u> can <del>ean</del> be popular in a Government based on <u>universal suffrage</u> ? We had flattered ourselves that the <u>Southern</u> and <u>western</u> whigs were more enlightened in their views. But if whig principles do many of these gentle men partake, beyond <u>the named</u>
South ern Whigs }	In general they are swept along needlessly by the éclat of a military commander. Of

June 12	Re marks }	<p>Of Gen. Taylor we are disposed to speak respectfully, since we believe him to possess many valuable qualities, but we have never supposed that <u>bravery and desperate fighting</u> were requisites in a President, residing in the White House. A man may be great in the field and little with cabinet. But as Gen. Taylor has received the nomination it could be folly for Massachusetts or any other Whig state, to oppose his election. That he possesses good talents is believed, and what is as important, he is, we believe, an honest and <u>honorable man</u>, and has opinions of his own. By opposing his election we are in danger of promoting one to a high place, of a very different character, ripe for any ultra measures a popular course may dictate Gen Taylor is an inhabitant of Louisiana and there held as a Whig, but a small departure from <u>loco foco doctrines</u> confuse that name. in the southern states <u>Millard Fillmore</u>, of the State of New-York is the nominee for Vice-President.</p>
13	another con vention }	<p><u>Tuesday</u>. m. cloudy, wind N.W. brisk &amp; cool, but fair before noon the day continued fair &amp; clear Disappointed in the nomination of Cass &amp; Taylor some of the Whigs of Massachusetts, propose to have a state Convention at Worcester on the 28 of June current, to take such steps as the occasion shall demand in support of the principles to which they are pledged &amp;c.</p>

June 14  
Chambers's Information for the People

Wednesday M. some cloudy wind NW, and soon fair; and still cool

Chamber's Information for the People, or Popular Encyclopaedia in 2 Vol. : price 5 dollars

A pamphlet containing the principal articles of the work is circulated from which it appears that the work is valuable and contains upwards of 500 engraving: 100,000 set/vols. is said to have been sold in England

The American Edition is said to have been edited by an accomplished American scholar, without impairing in the slightest degree the integrity of the original text; with ~~and~~ notes and ed, and such corrections, as were necessary to adapt it to the wants of the American public. As it will contain more recent discoveries, and improvements than are found in prior Encyclopaedias, it may be well to place it in our Libraries. For a young man of an inquiring mind and good intellects, this work is invaluable; and when they turn their studies to such works instead of party politics, they will become better citizens.

The present studies of a portion of our young, is belittling to the mind, and demand a change, a change from the party politics of the day, as found in weekly publications, to pure scientific studies, to which very few turn their attention. Indeed in my intercourse with young men I rarely find one who has gone through a course of philosophical study, unless it to among those who have passed through

An American Edition

Excellence of the work

- June  
14 a collegiate course, and some of these are extremely limited in their views of expanded science, having spent their strength upon classical studies, the present fashionable resort of the learned of the day. PM The work having been brought to my room I perused it 2 vols & 5 about 1700 ~~900~~ full pages in the whole
- 15 Thursday M Cloudy, wind SW but soon fair. The [ ] day fair & cloudy by turns & of measured temperature of air
- 16 Friday. M fair, wind W the day continued fair and the air begins to partake of the summer temperature, which, up to this time, I have not felt.
- 17 Saturday m. fair, wind SW and warm air; the day continued fair & summer like
- Our army is said be leaving Mexico for home; they generally embark at Vera Cruz. One account says 2000 of the southern part are sick, and doubtless many of the poor fellows will leave their bones in that region. And with a vertical sun now upon them they will be fortunate if they escape a sweep of the yellow fever: the remnant on reaching home, will feel no indication for another term of service under a Mexican sun, and its fatal malaria

June	<u>Sunday</u> m. fair, and SW wind
18	the day generally fair & warm but towards the close sky hazy: the weather is now of the usual summer temperature.
19	<u>Monday</u> m. Broken clouds; an early shower, wind S & variable PM overspreading clouds, showers and some thunder
20	<u>Tuesday</u> m. cloudy, wind SW & S; becoming fair late in the afternoon.
Chamber's work	Among the publications that have come under my eye of late year none have commanded more of my attention than Chamber's Information for the People; it is in reality a condensed Encyclopaedia, and scarcely an article is found in it, uninteresting and no reading family able to spare five dollars should be found without it. Some of the articles are, of course, brief, but they serve as useful guides to more extended works; and at the same time present very useful essays on the subjects treated of. Were I to find fault with Mr [ ] Edition it would be in the smallness of the type. But by using a small type, this work is reduced to half the size & price of a coarse type. The work is not dear at 5 dollars; Its bind. is elegant strong & lettered.
Character of	

June  
21

Wednesday M fair; wind SW;  
day fair.  
Sun now at the tropic of  
Cancer, and the days at the  
longest. PM much covered with  
scattering clouds.

The  
nomi  
nation }

oppos  
ed }

The papers of the day are filled with  
opinions on the nomination of Gen  
Taylor to the presidency and many  
of our eminent men seem in  
clined to oppose it. The plea is  
the General has not satisfactorily  
expressed his sentiments on certain  
points of policy deemed import  
ant. This may be so, but that  
he is opposed to some of those  
of the loco foco candidate, we be  
lieve, is well known, and that  
in case of an election he would  
not be inclined to plunge the  
country into another unnecessary  
war. Could the nomination be  
changed to Mr Webster or Mr Clay,  
with a probability of success, we  
should be gratified. But an attempt  
of this kind we think would insure  
the success of Gen. Cass, whose course  
of policy few will doubt. Who have  
watched his movements, since he came  
into public life. That his election to  
the presidency, would be unfortunate to  
our country cannot be doubted. Admit  
ting him as capable, his strong  
party prejudices destroy his useful  
ness; and one of a different cha  
racter is now wanted.

June 22	<u>Thursday</u> m. fair, wind W: af ternoon generally cloudy.
Our farmers }	Our farmers are now about com mence haying, and as the season has been rather moist the crop may be good; for Indian corn the weather has been too cool, but not for the cereal grains.
Remarks on our meadow }	Since the first settlement of the town by the Dedham people, 177 years have elapsed, and still the soil retains its fertility, though somewhat diminished since the enriching floods of the river have become less frequent; and these floods were probably become more rare as the country, bordering on the river is cleared of its woods. This <del>di</del> diminution of the waters of rivers is well known to naturalists, and is explained by the increase of evaporation from the surface of the ground where it is laid open to the sun.
& River }	
23	<u>Friday</u> . M. fair, wind S.W. the day fair with may clouds frequently covering the sky, and the air warm.
The Mex ican Army }	We are looking for the return of the regiment of Mr Polk's army from Mexico, with the <u>laurels</u> won in forcing <u>vi et</u> <u>armis</u> , about one half of that coun try from its rightful owners. The tale to be told by the medical de partment will be fearful, and we hope a check to future mili tary enthusiasm of the young & inconsiderate, who learn only by such experience. Small indeed will be the



- June  
23 the pleasure of the survivors  
in contemplating the feats they  
have performed in a war, not  
of defense of the rights of their coun-  
try, but one of cupidity and  
palpable injustice, and a  
stain upon the ruling party  
in our country. At the close  
of the war of our Revolution  
the surviving soldiers might  
justly claim the honors of a  
War in defence of their dearest  
rights, but alas! in the pre-  
sent, nothing short of injustice  
and rapacity offers. While his-  
tory details the battles fought,  
humanity will recoil at the  
base designs of the war.
- 24 Saturday. m. fair, wind NW &  
rather cool: the day continued  
fair, with & brisk wind & temperate  
air
- 25 Sunday M. fair wind W.  
and day fair, with agreeable air
- 26 Monday. M. fair, wind W; the  
day fair & pretty warm, and  
fine hay weather which our farm-  
ers are improving. And now  
since peace is concluded with Mex-  
ico we hope the peaceful arts will  
be fostered; and our people re-  
turn to their proper employments  
Peace however, will be of short  
duration if the present dominant  
party continue in the ascendancy:  
other accessions of territory are  
still in view, & cupidity engorged

June 27 Tuesday M. thinly cloudy, wind SW and soon clear throughout.

Taxes } This day paid D Felton Collector  
paid } of Taxes for this town, the following sums. my Tax 5.69  
son Arthur's 16.90  
\$22.59

28 Took receipt [ ]  
The taxes have increased since last year: Why is this?  
The taxes we pay are for the support of civilization, and we should not grudge them when duly assessed upon economical grounds.  
Mr. Polk's war always excepted

Wednesday. M. cloudy but soon fair, & wind SW; the day fair with some broken clouds and some thunder

Ride to Bloody Brook } Invited by Mr. Josiah Fogg to ride to the village of Bloody Brook I accepted his kind offer and visited Col. Bryant & family on their new farm, of 130 acres: The soil is of a middling quality, and with manure and thorough cultivation might be made productive. But the high price of labor is a draw back upon the farmer, and I fear he will feel the inconvenience. Bloody Brook village presents a flourishing aspect, the houses in general painted white and of a convenient size and the frequent passage of rail road cars give it a [ ] appearance. I noticed many fields of hay in the vicinity and on the road; also some new buildings erecting.

June 28 Hay gath ering }	Many loads of hay now passed my house this day, to the south, generally drawn by horses: in my young days we used cattle (oxen), or cattle and horses, and almost every farmer had his team and two wheeled cart carrying about a ton of hay.
Thun der show er }	About ½ past 6 PM on overspread cloud gave us some sharp lightning, and rain followed by NE wind; but the winds in showers are always variable, sometimes veering them 180 degrees of the horizon. As I suppose from a descent of the air of the upper regions of the atmosphere causing a flow of wind on all directions from the centre of the shower.
Re marks on }	According to Mr Espy's theory summer showers are produced by the <u>ascent</u> of warm air, as in the <u>case of</u> large fires on the earth's surface; but this as cent of the air must cease after the rain commences, and a downward current succeed. Here we have an explanation of the cool air after a violent shower in hot weather.
29	<u>Thursday</u> m. cloudy but soon partial fair, and wind N the day was cloudy till PM then became fair & clear & pretty hot.

June  
30

Friday m. cloudy with rain and W. wind; the day generally cloudy and wet, wind veered to SW. We hear of no arrivals of part of our Mexican army at any of our ports. Vera Cruz, the port of embarkation, may at this season be subject to the yellow fever and render it dangerous to the troops, in which case they will remain upon the elevated country until the unhealthy season is past; and even there they may suffer great loss from the malaria of the country. Poor fellows in their zeal for military service, little due they think of the loss of lives.

July

1

Parish }  
Tax }

French }  
[ ] }  
[ ] }

Saturday m cloudy & rainy wind SW; and the day the same. Paid my parish Tax to collector Wright \$4.58~  
By the latest account from France it appears that the establishment of a republican Government is not so easy a task as the leaders seem to have supposed. If however they succeed in forming a constitution acceptable to a majority of the people, my word for it, they will find in its operation difficulties of which they had not even dreamed. The leaders in this movement are doubtless enlightened men who are pursuing means they think will add to the happiness of the people; but are they aware of the deceptive acts of demagogues in misleading the simple men, found in all nations? We fear not.

- July  
2      Sunday m. cloudy, wind NW  
the day was generally cloudy.
- 3      Monday M. cloudy, wind NE  
and {—} continued cloudy with  
considerable rain (& wind changed  
to SW), until about 5 PM then be  
came fair. For 4 days in suc  
cession our farmers suspended their  
hay-making, from want of the sicca  
tive rays of the sun.
- 4      Tuesday. m. fair, wind W. (variable)  
and brisk; day fair & rather cool air  
This being the anniversary of our In  
dependence our young people attended  
an address in the Brick Church; after  
which formed a procession & proceeded  
to the Academy yard & partook of a  
collation under an ornamented bower.  
a large portion of the young children  
of the town/village attended.  
The address was delivered  
by Rev. Mr. ~~Wheatly~~ Winkly of Boston and  
it is said, was skillfully adapt  
ed to the young audience.  
These fourth of July occasions were  
formerly got up by political par  
ties for promoting their respec  
tive views, and were scenes  
of disorder, which none will regret  
to see changed to useful purposes.
- 5      Wednesday. M. fair, wind W;  
the day fair with many broken clouds  
Congress still continues in session, but  
nothing important on the topics.  
At night, a small shower and some  
thunder & extended clouds.

- July  
6 Thursday m. fair, wind NE  
the day partially cloudy & cool air  
prevails throughout, and in fact  
we have had no severe but cool  
this season.
- 7 Friday. m cloudy, wind NE  
the day the same with variable wind  
and air cool. I find winter clothes  
necessary to keep warm.  
Cool weather } We have no clouds of the cumulous form as  
in former times, and of course no  
showers } showers of the old aspect, produ  
cing violent thunder storms: and  
most of those that occur are of the  
stratus form, overspreading the sky:  
and I have not noticed a cumulus  
shower this season. These changes  
in our summer showers seem to  
be unknown to our young people
- 8 Saturday m cloudy, wind North  
the day cloudy & fair alternately.  
The Hampshire & Franklin (at Amherst) Rail  
road has been abandoned, say the papers,  
obviously a wise step, as every prudent  
man will see: and it is believed that  
Rail roads } many other short routes for the accommodation  
of a few trains, will follow the same fate  
Nor should we surprised if some of the  
more extended projects were to find a  
deficiency in their funds, before completion  
The truth is, the multiplication of  
charters for these roads, have been too great  
and offer little, or no probability of  
success.
- 9 Sunday m. cloudy, wind NW, and  
day generally cloudy & cool, rendering  
a fire in my room necessary.
- 10 Monday m cloudy, wind NW, most  
of the day was fair & pleasant

July  
11

Millers  
River  
rail road

and  
Troy  
to Green  
field

Tuesday M. cloudy, wind  
SW but soon fair, and the  
day continued so.

A scribbler in the Boston Traveller  
says the Vermont and Massachu  
setts rail road was opened last week  
to Orange on Millers river 38 miles from  
Fitchburg, and he understands the road  
is newly graded to Brattleboro and will  
be finished this year, except the branch to  
Greenfield. These works he says will finish  
the road to Erving, and as many man to  
Grouts, and point 7 miles from Greenfield  
and 11 miles from Orange. Speaking  
of the projected road from Greenfield to Troy.  
he says in the future is as sure to be  
built either through or around the moun  
tain as that Deerfield River runs into  
Connecticut, or the Hoosac into the Hudson.

Predictions are easily made; but  
when they are devoid even of prob  
ability, they require at least a  
known prophet to give them credence  
now I will venture to predict, that  
a Tunnel through Hoosac mountain  
is no more likely to be constructed  
than that the Hudson should be turned  
from its channel and empty into  
the Connecticut at Greenfield. The  
writer hints at a passage over the  
mountain on a grade of 60 feet, but  
where he will find such a grade from  
the valley of Charlemont is best known  
to himself.

When men give loose to wild imagination  
nothing appears difficult; and even a  
syms hole, appears probable.

12

Wednesday. m cloudy, wind SW &  
rainable, but became clear before noon,  
and the day fair & warm. Late in the  
afternoon [ ] clouds appeared  
and covered the sun, but none  
of the cumus kind

July 13	<u>Thursday</u> M. cloudy wind S.W. the day fair & cloudy & a shower PM By the Caladonia, which reached N York early Sunday morning, gloomy intelligence is received from Paris via Liverpool: an armed collision and bloody struggle had occurred [ ] the troops and the populous of Paris. On the 23d of June the national Generals were fighting desperately with the people and the loss of life was terrific. In the Province numerous collisions have taken place between the authorities and the peo ple, attended with loss of life.
Gloomy intelli gence from France	
Re marks	If the leaders of this revolution were unaware of such results, they were [ ] of the character of the French people, and indeed of all others in old populous countries, where the mass of the people and ignorant of the real principles of Government. And of the virtues essential for the support of republics. If this is in fact, the condition of the majority of the people of France, the at tempt to establish a government found ed on universal suffrage might prove abortive. That the [ ] would adopt a republican form of Government on the repudiation of the king. I en tertained no doubts, but after a few years experienced the result was not doubtful.
14	<u>Friday</u> . m. cloudy, wind SW but soon became fair; PM Some rain from an insulated cloud; after which fair
15	<u>Saturday</u> m fair, wind N.W., the day continued clear with agreeable air



July	<u>Sunday</u> m. fair; cool, and
16	wind W. followed by a fair day.
17	<u>Monday</u> m fair, wind W
	and the day fair & clear.
The Paris insur rection	<p>By the arrival of the steamship Niagara at Boston, from Liverpool July 1<sup>st</sup>, we have the details of the carnage and butchery at Paris, in 4 days fighting, between the national troops &amp; insurgents of the city, in which 15000 men are said to have been killed &amp; wounded, and the insurgents departed. The Executive Government has resigned, and General Cavaignac, is appointed military Dictator. This is the result of the late political movement in France, and exceeds the anticipation of the most fearful. Will it still be said the people of France are prepared for a free Government? Nothing but a military Chief, with an army at his back, can remain long at the head of the Government. France has been imminent in the arts sciences &amp; literature, and it is to be presumed a portion of the people are prepared for a rational government; but it appears that a large portion of the people are deficient in political virtue; and when freed from restraint, run into the greatest excesses, not less ferocious than is found among savages, as is evident not only by the present, but the former revolution, where their best men were brought to the Guillotine. Every patriot [ ] wishes to see a rational government in France; but what can be expected from one of free suffrage where a great portion of the people are blind to their interests? The present movement seems to have been the work of <u>theoretical</u> men, who in their enthusiasm for liberty have lost sight of the condition of the people and a rigid military monarchy may be the result</p>

July 18

Tuesday m. fair, wind W.; the day  
clear & pleasant air

Re  
turn  
ing  
troops  
from  
Mexi  
co

The last of our army says a New Orleans paper, "left Mexico the 12<sup>th</sup> of June" and the Massachusetts Regiment arrived at that city on the 30<sup>th</sup>, reduced from 700 to 450, without having been engaged in any battle, though some have been killed in skirmishes & others deserted. The loss by sickness is less than was apprehended Will the surviving soldiers wish for another campaign in Mexico? An accurate report of the loss of men in Mexico, in battles & and by the malaria of the country, would present an appalling pretence; but this the policy of our government will force. The returned soldiers however will not be silent on the subject; and the relation of their sufferings, and of their deceased associates, will excite our commiseration; and be a useful lesson to our inconsiderate young men who know nothing of the distresses of war, particularly in a hot climate.

19

Wednesday M. fair, wind SW  
and the day fair & pleasant  
The late insurrection in Paris, is  
is a striking proof of the unfitness  
of a large portion of the people for  
a free government, and it is not  
to be supposed that the people of  
the numerous large cities of the coun  
try are much better fitted for  
that purpose. The national assembly  
of France may become a constitution  
on republican principles, but without

July  
19

a strong military force, it is feared  
the constitution will not outlive  
the first electoral term.

The success of the United States under  
a republican form, has undoubtedly mis-  
led the zealous republicans of France  
who seem not to have considered the  
condition of the people of that country.  
A recent writer on Government touch-  
ing upon our system, says, "With  
an immensely large unoccupied territory  
and general thinness of population, it  
is impossible to draw any just inference  
as to the stability of this still comparatively  
raw and untried republican government.  
It is suitable to the present condition of  
their character after its population has be-  
come as dense as that of England, and great  
diversities of wealth and intelligence have  
arisen, is a question which time only can  
settle."

This writer evinces more knowledge of  
the human character, then is seen  
in the theoretical politicians of France  
who seem to have supposed their peo-  
ple capable of a free government, an  
error which it is believed, they at  
this time, begin to perceive. The horrid  
experiment in Paris, may have a use-  
full effect on the other old countries of  
Europe, by shewing that a wild shout  
for liberty is no proof that the people  
are prepared for it; and it is hoped  
that our ultra democrats will open  
their eyes to the lesson.

20

Thursday m. fair, wind SW  
the day fair & somewhat warm the  
ground is now dry; no showers have  
occurred of late

July  
 20  
 Iron Bridges for rail roads }

Wrote my son at Vergennes enclosing a letter from Mr Gouch of Springfield, relating to iron bridges. Mr Gouch says these bridges will not much exceed the expense of wooden ones, if so they are an improvement, since they will be more durable than wooden bridges. I have always considered the latter as defective for rail-roads and when old as extremely dangerous. and before them defects can be known. If it be a fact (as Mr Gouch asserts) that iron bridges can be constructed for about the same cost as timber bridges, then they ought to be generally adopted, as safer and ultimately, more economical than wooden structures.

Re marks on }

Mr Gouch's Bridge has been favorably noticed in the papers, and he says, has met the approbation of all Engineers who have examined it. His bridge may be a valuable acquisition to rail & other roads. Iron Bridges have been known in England for many years; the south wark bridge on the thames, and that at Sunderland are well known.

21 Friday m. fair, wind S.W. and fair day & warm. Our farmers are gathering their Rye crop said to be pretty good. This crop is a sure crop in N. England and affords wholesome bread at a moderate price: for wheat we must rely on our western country, since it is [    ] [    ] crop here.

22 Saturday m some foggy, but soon clear, wind SW; day fine & stratus sets

July 22 which gave us some rain at night, with lightning, & the day last but none of the old cumulus thunder showers occur.

23 Sunday Cloudy & rainy m. considerable rain last night, the day continued cloudy with N. wind and some rain

24 Monday m fair with scattering clouds and wind SW.; the day fair, & pleasant air.

25 Tuesday m partially cloudy wind N; clear before noon. PM the sky much covered by stratus clouds, and air moderate

26 Wednesday. m. fair, wind S.W. the day fair. and warm

27 Thursday m cloudy, wind SW; the day generally cloudy and pretty warm. Thr shower at eve. Congress still in session, arranging affairs, connected with

Con }  
gress } Mr. Polk's war, for the acquisition of territory The Island of Cuba may now prepare for the fraternal hug! and Jamaica next in the sequence. But Gen Cass in the White House, Canada may be the next object, and Cuba left to the process of annexation alamode de Texas. The plan is understood by ultra democracy.

July 28	<u>Friday</u> m. cloudy wind SW but soon fair, and the day fair and cloudy alternated fair, moderate Recd. a letter from my friends at Vergennes, dated July 26—all well~
29	<u>Saturday</u> m. fair, wind NW and day generally fair In my last letter from my con nections at Vergennes they mention a vist to the Clarrenden medical springs, at about 7 miles south of Rutland as a place of consider able resort, said to be beneficial for cutaneous complaints, I was not aware of the existence of these springs. They are situated among the mountains, in a romantic place and perhaps have acquired a reputation from the purity of the water & bathing in them. Three or four boarding pails are poured at the place. Almost all countries have their favorite resorts at Springs in the hot season, and since they promote cleanliness & afford a wholesome [     ], they may be beneficial, though destitute of any medical properties.
Clar rendon medi cal Springs	
Tele graphs	The letter mentions a telegraphic com munication, made by Engineer Gilbert at Rutland to my son at Vergennes, requiring his attendance at the former; here it ap pears, this machine is in operation there, of which I was not previously informed.

July  
30

Chole  
ra in  
Europe }

Sunday m. fair, and  
wind SW; day fair & pleasant air  
By the latest accounts, we learn that  
the Cholera is making progress in Europe  
rope, particularly in Mosco, St. Peters  
burgh and other parts, and is progress  
ing westward. Probably it will, at  
length, extend to America and again  
into the St. Lawrence. The origin and  
progress of this disease is singular. Shall  
we say, it is a special provision of Prov  
idence, or the result of the errors of  
man in the modes of living? Accord  
ing to the doctrine of Malthus, popula  
tion may become too great for subsistence  
in which case he says "there must be  
some counteracting agencies or checks,  
in constant operation in almost all  
communities, to restrain population at a  
lower rate of increase, or to keep it  
stationary." But no country of the  
known world, it is believed, is thus situated  
Even Ireland, where famine has  
recently seen, probably owes its distresses  
to causes, which might be avoided  
by a wise course of things.  
The Malthusian theory might have  
applied to an overgrown popula  
tion of some of the South Sea Islands  
before they were discovered by Europe  
an navigators.  
When Capt. Cook first visited the Island of  
Otahite the practice of putting to death  
a portion of the infants, was there found:  
and was not this one of the check, to  
overgrown population, which Mr  
Malthers' theory would embrace?  
If it be had that the world is increasing  
our population, it is true also that it is  
increasing in subsistence for man

July	<u>Monday</u> M. cloudy, with rain
31	wind NW. the day continued
August	cloudy, with cool air & some rain
1	<u>Tuesday</u> . M. fair, wind N.W. the day fair
Mann's	<u>Horace Mann's</u> speech in our
speech	Congress House of Representatives
in Con	June 30 <sup>th</sup> on Slavery.
gress	Ripened in science & literature of the
	modern liberal school, and consc
	ous of the [    ] of moral truth Mr
	Mann entered upon his task, and
on	as we think bore down all oppo
Slave	sition to his positions. He has
ry	probed to the bottom, the abscess
	of the body politic, which has so
	long infected the slave states, and
	opened an incision through which
	the prescient matter may be discharged
	and a cure effected, and the body
	restored to health.
	Among the many able speeches
	I have perused of members of this
	body, I must say none have been
	more in unison with the strings
	of my heart than this production
	of Mr Mann; and it is said the
	members of the slave states listened
	to him with a degree of patience and
	chastised forbearance, beyond anticipa
	tion, indicating a disposition to pause
	and reflect, before the charms of
	slavery are [    ] on the free
	territories of Oregon and the re
	cent accessions of Northern Mex
	ico. It is ardently hoped the
	<u>lecture</u> of Mr Mann will not
	fail to open the eyes of the southern



August  
1

people to their true interest, and at length give liberty to three millions of their fellow men, now groaning under misery & despair whose dearest right are not even known in the states old books, Nor [ ] [ ] allowed to petition for a redress of the grossest abuse & they may suffer from their unrelenting masters!

Mr Mann has developed the evils of slavery in its various bearings on society, and shown that science, & literature cannot extend to a great length, in a country where slavery prevails, and shows a striking contrast between those people of the slave, & those of the free states in point of intellectual arguments highly to the advancement of the latter.

In the late death of John Q. Adams a void was supposed to be produced that could not soon be filled. The loss of that sage was, indeed, great; but it reflects no small discernment on the electors of the Congressional District, that they were able to select one to fill his place, who gives fair promise of filling the void.

Mr Mann's lecture to the southern people (for this is its proper title) should be published in the pamphlet form, & in the hands of every reading man in the free states—I would say within the United States were prejudices less violent in the slave states.

August  
2

Wednesday. M. fair, wind NE and  
day fair with moderate air. PM  
the wind W, and the remark  
able absence of cumulous thunder showers

I have, noticed for years past, still con-  
tinues; the fact seems to be establish-  
ed, but the cause not readily assigned.

The  
Euro  
pean  
storm }

By the latest accounts from Europe  
it appears that the political storm  
still rages in that quarter of the  
world with unabated fury. After  
the downfall of the Roman Empire  
a period called the dark ages en-  
sued, & the world remained for a  
time in a sort of savage condition.

Con  
sider  
ations  
on the  
move  
ments }

Is this again to occur? Is Europe  
with all her arts sciences & literature  
& wonderful improvements, about to  
fall back to a dark age? But we  
are told by certain political enthusi-  
asts, that liberty & the right of man,  
were never known in the world until  
they blazed forth in our country at  
the commencement of our revolution, and  
that we are now on the march to  
a political millennium, in which the  
restraints of law, old precedents and ex-  
perience, are to be repudiated as worth-  
less rubbish, and man left to the govern-  
ment of their wild passions

Progress  
in arts }

But before we boast of progress  
let us turn an eye to our real con-  
dition, and of what do we find that  
is fluttering since the patriotic days  
of Washington? True we have made  
useful improvements in the mechan-  
ical arts, but are not these the  
work of a few rare individuals  
who have deeply pondered the laws

of

August  
 2 of the mind } of nature and applied them to their designs? But in the progress of mind in the mass, what have we to boast over our predecessors? And in the science of Government, is it not a fact that we are setting back to a low level through the influence and arts of designing demagogues who would invent the course of nature to carry out their own evil designs?

Europe } In Europe we see the old governments tottering on their bases, and still the people in capable of exercising free governments. In Ireland we

Ire land } see a portion of uneasy men, determined on a revolution, and misleading the uninformed from their real interest, the cultivation of the soil, which alone can furnish subsistence, and save the people from famine: And thus, while agriculture is thus neglected, the people seem to think political reform will furnish food for their support, and cure all the evils of which they complain: and a similar diathesis prevails in some of the old countries on the continent. What will be the result of these movements time alone will determine. Of one thing, however, we are sure. viz: that where free governments exist, there must be political virtue in the people, and the evil part of society in check by salutary laws. When nations of Europe are sufficiently enlightened for free governments, we should delight to see them under the republican form.

Polit ical virtue } Thursday m. fair, wind N. and day fair

3 The return of our volunteers from Mexico, is noticed in the papers. They are represented in general as looking extremely pale, haggard, and care worn, and the dress tattered & torn, many of them sick with the Diarrhea, since they arrived

Little

August

3

The  
Volun  
teers  
return

Little did these infatuated young men dream of the hardships they were to undergo in the tented field, when they placed their names upon their enlistments. Democratic fury supposed all caution, and they thought military service was but pleasant pastime. They returned with chastened spirits, willing to remain at home. At New York the City Government thought it necessary to do something to cheer their drooped spirits, and medals were distributed to the remnant of Col Burnetts regiment doubtless to prevent too deep an impression on the young citizen soldier, who might be wanted in another war for conquest, should Gen. Cass be elected to the Presidency.

4

Friday m. cloudy but soon clear  
wind S. Latter part of day  
stratus clouds.

State  
of Ire  
land

From the late accounts from Ireland it appears that a portion of the people are nearly ready for an insurrection against the Government; many arrests are made of editors of papers, for salacious publications. That the poor of the country find it difficult to obtain subsistence is no doubt true; but why are those descriptions of people greater sufferers than the poor of England & Scotland?

Is it not in part, owing to disturbers of the peace, who partake of the democratic spirit, which will not rest under any government the same spirit we find among the ultra democrats of our own Country, who with the fullest liberty are constantly uneasy? And aim at radical changes.

August  
4

As in all old countries of limited extent, Ireland has an ~~large~~ overgrown population and of course many poor who have no means of procuring subsistence, but by their labor. But is this the fault of government? The great complaint of the Irish at this time the Union with England, as if this was the cause of ~~the cause~~ of their suffering. Now to me it appears, that this Union is essential to the welfare of both, and that a separation would be most unfortunate. So long as England, Scotland & Ireland are united they form a strong nation, capable of defence against any other. Separate them and they become weak and liable to conquest by any great military nation on the Continent. But it is said England is hostile to the welfare of Ireland. Is this true? If so, it is difficult to account for the anomaly. Rather is not the difficulty caused by a few uneasy men, who act from selfish views, or and [ ] to any regular government? Let the people turn their attention to agricultural, industry and the arts, and it is believed they would find less want of subsistence and [ ] increase their happiness. Still there will be many poor among them, and this is unavoidable in old nations where land is scarce and dear. In the United States extreme poverty is little known; and is not this owing to the vast tracts of wild land in our western regions, which can be obtained at a low price? In Ireland there is poverty and misery [ ] but it is a question whether they are not in part, owing to the [ ] effect of evil men hostile to all salutary advancement

August  
5

Saturday m. fair, wind SW  
and the day fair, but sometimes  
covered by stratus clouds.

News  
of the  
week }

The accounts from Europe during  
the last week, present a threatening  
aspect; in Paris efforts have been  
made to renew the insurrection and  
several horrid plans have been discovered  
and defeated, and order is maintained  
only by military force. Did the pro  
moters of the revolution foresee this  
state of things, and do they now  
believe the people are prepared  
for a republic? The national Con  
vention by this time, was held, [ ]  
[ ] that liberty consists not in  
wild shouts of the multitude

6

Sunday m. fair, wind NW,  
mild air and day fair.

7

Monday m. fair, wind NE  
and fair day fine

The  
work  
on the  
monuments  
of the  
western  
Country  
forth  
coming }

We hear that the 1<sup>st</sup> Vol of the An  
cient Monuments of the Missis  
sippi Valley, by Messrs. E.G. Squires  
and E.H. Davis, is passing through  
the press, and will be published this  
month. It will be the first Vol. of  
the "Smithsonian Contributions to  
Knowledge". We have been very  
desirous of perusing this work, un  
der the impression that it will  
prove beyond a doubt that Ameri  
ca long prior to its discovery by Eu  
ropeans, was inhabited in by a race  
~~of men~~ far advanced in Arts,  
beyond the Indians since known  
in our Western country. Perhaps how  
ever similar to the Mexicans, prior  
to their conquest by Cortez, and think  
they were known to the Asiatics is  
probable.

August  
7

But in vain we attempt to trace the history of the primitive nations of the old world, prior to the paling times of Greece & Rome; and can the Jewish history, which claims to be the most ancient, evidently embraces much of the fabulous: now another claims of the Chinese to many millions of years of existence, worthy of consideration, for any nation claiming records or traditions, so remote must rely on fiction.

8

Tuesday m fair, wind SW  
and day fair and warm

A social  
meeting }  
al  
meet  
ing }

Took supper with the Trustees of Deerfield Academy. at Hayes Homesstead—a pleasant company, and had a debate on Rail-roads, in which I endeavored to show that by multiply them on parallel or river routes their objects are defeated and at length become

Debate  
on rail  
roads }

unpredictable investments and fail of support; that short routes for the accommodation of a few towns in the interior of the country, cannot find support. and that one great artery from Boston to Albany & another from Boston via Fitchburg to Lake Champlain, are sufficient for the business of the state in a western direction. My positions were opposed by several gentlemen who I thought had let their zeal outstrip their judgment and had wandered in the land of utopia, without

- August 8 star, compass, or experience for their guide. My antagonists however seemed little inclined to the task of delving 4 or 5 miles through Hoosac mountain for a road from Greenfield to Troy, and by what means they would pass the mountain did not appear.
- 9 Wednesday. m. fair, wind SW the day fair but sky hazy. an pretty hot air. Travelers passing us on our [ ] rail road on the east side of the village, I am informed, speak in very flattering terms of the appearance, of our street ~~and~~ especially of its fertile meadows on its borders. One Gentleman who had been in England, France and some other parts of Europe, remarked that he had no where seen so [ ] a country as that from Northampton, northerly along the road way. Our village it is true appears to great advantage from the rail road, but it can boast of no great style of elegance in its buildings, and perhaps its plainness constitutes its beauty; but its adjacent meadows cannot fail to strike the eye of taste, with admiration: And I think I may say that no part of the United States presents so handsome a chain of villages, as the banks of the Connecticut from Middletown to the upper part of Vermont, and none where the people possess more unadulterated republicanism and regular habits. Of this, one of our poets seems to have been sensible, when he sung the following distich.
- “Roll on loved Connecticut, long hast thou ran,  
Giving blossoms to Nature, and morals to man.”<sup>16</sup>
- And no river of equal extent in the United States affords water of greater purity.
- our village notice of by travelers {
- Remarks on {
- The Valley of the Connecticut {

<sup>16</sup> Robert Treat Paine, *Yeoman of Hampshire*.



August 10      Thursday m. fair, wind SW  
 day clear and hot. but no ap-  
 pearances of thunder showers.  
 as was common in former times  
A [ ] midday event.

Sudden death of Roland Stebbins on the Rail road }  
 A few minutes before 4 oclock  
 PM Mr Roland Stebbins, the  
 Dumb and Deaf man of our  
 village, was killed on the rail  
 road near Cheapside in this town. He  
 had been at Greenfield to attend  
 a Circus show, and return-  
 ing home of feet, alone, along the  
 road, met the train and was  
 instantly killed. He had  
 been noticed by the engineer  
 at a short distance, and the  
 whistle & bell sounded to no-  
 tify him of his danger, which  
 his deafness prevented his hear-  
 ing, and before the train could  
 be stopped, was struck by the  
 engine, thrown from the road  
 and instantly expired. He was  
 a son of the late Col. Asa Stebbins  
 of this town, had been educated  
 at the Hartford deaf & dumb  
 school & was able to read, write  
 & perform common business. and  
 to take care of himself. as was  
 supposed. No deaf man should [ ]  
 [ ] himself upon a rail road. [ ]  
 accidents of this kind are more frequent  
 than we had anticipated.

Particulars of }  
 A Caution }  
 11      Friday m. fair, wind SW day  
 fair and hot.  
 mailed a letter to son Arthur  
 containing an account of the death  
 of Roland Stebbins of our village

August 11  
 Keene }  
 rail }  
 road }  
 &c. }

Progress }  
 of }

12

Commu }  
 nication }  
 from }  
 D.S. Hoyt }

Mete }  
 orolog }  
 ical }

My hosekeeper Mr Osgood and wife returned from a visit to their friends in Sullivan New Hampshire having been absent nearly 7 days: he say the rail road trains run twice a day from Keene to Fitchburg and they expect to complete the road from Keene to Bellows falls by the commencement of winter or early next summer, when a junction will be found with the Rutland and Burlington rail-road, and be continuous to Boston from Lake Champlain The central road from the Connecticut by Montpelier to Burlington presents a rival route, and [ ] [ ] car [ ] determined the preference.

Saturday. M. cloudy, wind SW but sun out by 9 AM, and day generally fair some cloud PM My relative, David S. Hoyt sends me the annexed observations on the weather as inserted in the Pittsburgh Daily Morning Post, of August 5<sup>th</sup> 1848, made on his route from the Mexican Capital to Pittsburgh. Mr Hoyt I am informed has obtained his discharge & is now residing in Pittsburgh. He had previously sent me, metrological observations for the month of October 1847, made at the City of Mexico communicated in a letter postmarked December 30<sup>th</sup> of that year (See page 12<sup>th</sup>) His journal of Scott's operations in Mexico may be interesting to military men, and his visit to the volcano of Popocatepetl to all. He shared in the siege of Vera Cruz; and in some of the battles at Mexico [ ] on [ ]

- August 12 He is now, I am informed employed in the United States arsenal at Pittsburgh, at one dollar per day, the business of which he has become acquainted with by practical experience in the army.
- 13 Sunday. m partially cloudy, wind S.W., and the day fair and hot. Since the commencement of the month we have had pretty hot summer weather, free from showers and electricity seems to be in a state of repose. Mr. Mores gave a discourse on the death of the unfortunate Roland Stebbins—a subject affecting many useful reflections. From this incident we see the danger to which the dumb & deaf are exposed when alone~
- 14 Monday. M. cloudy, wind S.W. but soon fair, and so continued & wind brisk  
The Amherst Express of 14<sup>th</sup> instant, give the following from the United States Intelligencer:  
“The arrangements are nearly completed for the contemplated new Republic, to consist of the Mexican Provinces on the Rio-Grand, with San-Louis as the capitol, and Tampico & Matamoras as the sea ports. General Shields is at the head of the movement, and is now probably at San Louis in general command to make final arrangements. Many have already gone from N. Orleans to meet him; the American force will not be less 5,000 men”—Cuba it is supposed is to included in the grasp. This is but the 2d part of Mr Polks drama of annexation. We had not looked for it [            ]
- Annexation again plan of }

August  
14

Its ex }  
tent }

Let Gen. Cass obtain possession of the White House and the plan will be carried out with vigor; and the next grasp will probably be the British provinces on the north and northeast with the Islands of Bermuda & Jamaica. His plan of conquest is not news it was developed in the administration of President Monroe, and has since been kept in view by our ultra democrats. The name of the new republic, it is said, is be Sierra Madre and to be annexed to the U. States as soon as circumstances will permit.

A Buf }  
falo }  
hunt }  
propos }  
ed }

To carry out the plan some [ ] scheme must be adopted for providing a middling force from the people of the U. States. And here we have it. In recent New Orleans papers an advertisement is inserted of the following {—}

“Buffalo Hunt on the Rio Grand”

on the }  
Rio- }  
Grand }

All those desirous of joining the Buffalo hunt upon the Rio Grand next fall, are requested to send in their names and addresses to the Grand [ ] of the O.O.O. on or before the first day of September next. They will state the number of persons in each party, their equipments &c Rifles, muskets, or revolvers must be furnished by each hunter. As the party may expect occasional attacks from the hostile Indians roaming in that section of Country, it is recommended that each party should be organized and

August  
14

Organ  
ised  
& drilled  
hunts  
men

and drilled before meeting at the rendezvous. It is expected that many friendly Mexicans, skillful in the sport and acquainted with the habits and haunts of the animal, will join in the party. Due notice of the time of meeting and the rendezvous will be given through the public press." This notice, says the Amherst Express, is copied into the editorial comments of the Boston Post, without comments. No one will doubt the skill and zeal of that editor in Buffalo hunting on the Rio Grand, but we hardly think he will risk himself in the sport

15

Tuesday. M. fair, wind S.W. the day fair and hot, and [ ] ly a cloud to be seen at night. an temperature is now about a high as that of the torrid zone.

16

Wednesday. M. foggy but soon clear, wind SW; the day continued fair & hot, a little rain at night

Nom  
ination  
of Van  
Buren  
for  
Presi  
dent

We learn that a heterogeneous convention last week at Buffalo nominated Martin Van Buren for the Presidency. This step we think will insure the election of Mr. Cass which every patriot of the U States would wish to avoid. We fear our Whig friend of the Convention have, in this step, lost their desira tion and fallen into a democratic trap baited for them~

The case now stands thus: North ern democracy will be content with the election of either Van Buren or Cass; but the Taylor ticket is in the way; if then such a division of the people can be created, as to permit a popular a choice, no fears are entertained of [ ] in Congress by state votes.

- August 17 Thursday M. fair, wind SW  
occasionally pretty brisk & variable  
the day still hot, and continued  
so and generally very clear, at  
about sun set clouds in the NW  
indicated a thunder shower & some rain  
fell in the night, attended with  
a slight degree of thunder; but  
the remarkable absence of this  
phenomenon still continues.
- 18 Friday m. cloudy wind  
NE and rain soon commenced  
and continued some time and the  
day was generally cloudy.
- 19 Saturday M. loosely cloudy  
wind N. with cooler air  
PM fair—we hear of a very de  
structive fire at the City of Albany, A  
vast loss of property, details  
not received.
- 20 Sunday. M. fair, wind NE;  
day fair, air moderate and  
at night scattering clouds
- 21 Monday. m fair, wind NE;  
day fair & air moderate, as it has  
been since Thursday night.
- 22 Tuesday M. fair wind NE  
the day fair & pleasant.
- The }  
Albany }  
fire }
- The fire in Albany last ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday is stated  
in the papers to have been very destructive  
amounting to two millions of Dollars, or  
more. Within 4 hours, 500 buildings were  
lain in ashes, together with numerous  
water craft in the dock & a large quantity of flour  
The flames were finally stopped by a [    ]  
of wind & heavy rain. This timely rain

- August 22 was probably the [ ] of the fire, if we may rely on Mr Esphy's theory of showers as laid down in his philosophy of storms—a work which commands the attention of the natural ist.
- 23 Wednesday M. partially cloudy, but soon fair, with W. wind. day fair with s[c]attering clouds. PM wind NE
- Close of the Session of Congress } Congress closed its session in the (evening) of Thursday of the 14 instant, after a protracted sitting, during which the democratic spirit has been displayed, especially in the Senate and in some instances that body instead of being a check upon the House has evinced a policy which the latter has wisely corrected. But we are compelled to say, that in both, a subserviency to Mr Polk's plans has been evinced that forebodes ill to our country. The unconstitutional strides of the President in the invasion of Mexico should have been nipped in the budd, and he called to account for his strikes. But the session has afforded opportunities to the friends of the country to show their patriotism which discerning people will not forget in future elections.
- 24 Thursday m. fair, wind, N.E., and a very clear and pleasant day.
- 25 Friday. m. fair, wind N.W. and day fair but sometimes hazy
- Trip to Bloody Brook } Took a trip to Bloody Brook with Mr Josiah Fogg, who seems to be gratified in conferring acts of kindness on his friends;--noticed several new buildings erecting on various roads & streets. In the

August 25 Manure, wanting	} southerly part of this town extensive tracts of plain lands are seen which by improved cultivation would admit of a considerable increase of population. The great object is an increase of manures; and the draining of some of the wet lands in the south west part, in the vicinity of mill river.
Whately Limestone in the vicinity	} Professor Hitchcock notices a hill of Limestone near the north line of Whately, near mill river, which he thinks should it come into use would afford a useful manure for lands, and would supply the whole valley of the Connecticut for centuries. This limestone he says is quite impure, but will answer for mortar: 100 parts he found to contain carbonate of lime 78; the residuum (chiefly sand) 22 parts. See his <u>1<sup>st</sup> Geological Report</u> (1833) pages 25 & 26. In page 10, of the same work, he expresses his opinion that one of the greatest deficiencies in the soil of the principal part of Massachusetts, is the absence of lime.
Analysis of	} If such a source of manure exists in the vicinity of these lands, why is it not resorted to? The truth is our farmers know little of the importance of lime as a manure and in this they are far below the farmers of England. That almost all soils may be rendered fertile by renewing and proper cultivation, is a fact; but in some cases the expense may be too great for the profit.
Remarks	} <u>Saturday</u> . M fair, wind N.E.; the day fair, but scattering clouds seen.
26	<u>Sunday</u> . M. fair, wind NW and clear day with pleasant air, PM wind SW.
27	



August  
28  
29

Monday M. cloudy; wind SW  
and cloudy with rain & cool air  
Tuesday. M fair, wind SW  
and the day very clear.  
Paid to J & C Adams publishers  
of the H & F Express from Vol 2 N 7  
to Vol. 4 n 35=2 years & 6 months 3.75  
on my sons subscription. (See Rect.)  
By recent accounts from Ireland it  
appears that the sported measure taken  
by the British Government to to pre  
vent an outbreak among that  
restless people is likely to prove effect  
ual—Most of the leaders have been  
arrested, and no formidable bodies  
are collected to oppose the laws.  
The British Army now in Ireland is  
said to number 49,000 and the intentions  
of the Government is to earn all the well  
affected portion of the inhabitants.  
That a portion of the people of Ire  
land, like those of all old limited  
countries, are suffering from their  
poverty is admitted, but that they  
would better their condition by  
a separation from Great Britain  
is extremely doubtful. If the popu  
lation of the island has become too great  
for subsistence, the only remedy seems  
to be in emigration to countries, where  
land is plenty and at a low price,  
and to this the British Government of  
fer no impediment, and her provin  
ces in America offer openings for a vast  
number of inhabitants, as also the U. States  
our sympathy for the poor of all nation  
is alive, but we are far from believing  
that their distresses, in all cases, are the  
result of oppression, of their governments.  
An equality of property is impossible while  
men are not equally industrious & prudent.

Ire }  
land }

Its }  
restless }  
condi }  
tion }

August		<u>Wednesday</u> m. fair wind SW and
30		day very clear & fine air.
Letter	}	A Letter from my connections
from		at Vergennes, last evening. The rail
my		road progressing with good speed
frie[n]ds		and 18 miles of the lower part ex
		pected (towards Bellows falls) to be
		completed before winter. The
		large bridge at New-Haven is in con
		struction: and the year may com
		plete the whole road.
31		<u>Thursday</u> . M. fair, wind N; day
A par	}	fair & warm. Met a social party
ty		at Col. Wilsons, whence I <u>walked</u> home
		the first time I have tried my legs this
		summer. With the present warmth of
		feeling on approaching Presidential
		Election it was difficult to avoid dis
		cussion on that subject, and I was sur
		prized to see with what unconcern, our
		men of sense were falling into the <u>snare</u>
		set for them, by democracy. The
		Buffalo Convention was applauded
		by some of the Gentlemen, and <u>Mar</u>
		<u>tin Van Buren held up as a patriot!</u>
		While the purity of <u>Daniel Webster</u> was
		considered as doubtful. With such
		a vacillating diathesis, who can per
		ceive any thing but, confusion in
		the policy of the United States.
Septem	}	<u>Friday</u> . M. fair, but many brok
ber 1		en clouds, & wind S.W.; day fair
1848		generally.
2		<u>Saturday</u> M. fair, wind W. and
		day fair and cool air.
Politi	}	In the evening the Revd. Joshua
cal		Leavett delivered an address in
address		the town hall in and of the
		election, of Martin Van Buren to
		the Presidency. Mr Leavett is

Sept

2

At our  
town  
hall }

an orthodox clergyman, and  
one of the leaders of the "Free Soil"  
party, a name recently substi  
tuted for that of the Liberty party  
Whether the gentleman believes that  
the Whigs of the Northern States  
are to be suddenly converted to  
his utopian doctrines, and  
Mr. Van Buren held as a con  
verted patriot we cannot say.

Re  
marks  
on }

But with ordinary foresight, he  
cannot fail to see that his doct  
rines, if adopted, will insure the  
election of Gen. Cass to the Presidency.  
And in such an event, does he hon  
estly believe the extension of slavery  
would receive a check? The same  
political blindness operated in the  
election of Mr. Polk, and produced the  
war with Mexico, for the sole pur  
pose of conquest of adjoining territory.  
To Mr Leavetts opposition to slavery, we  
have no objection, but we regret  
to find him running into the gross  
error of claiming to himself & his par  
ty, the only ~~the only~~ real opposers  
to that abominable institution and  
at the same time ready to embrace  
Mr Van Buren as a reformed patriot  
If he prefers Gen. Cass to Gen. Taylor we think  
he is ignorant of their political cha  
racters, and has forgotten the funda  
mental principles of the Whigs, which  
alone can save our Country from  
injustice & anarchy. Of the election of Mr Van  
Buren he can entertain no well grounded  
hopes, but must see that by pre  
venting a choice by the people, Cass  
is sure of an election in Congress.

Sept 2		<p>The latin query (<u>Quae cum props ad crimen, sine crimine</u>) A notice "<u>How never may a man approach to guilt, without being guilty?</u> should not escape this {—} reflections of the party.</p>
The Van Bu ren nomi no risk to demo cracy	}	<p>In the nomination of Van Buren by the Buffalo Convention, democracy risked nothing; for in him a Gen. Cass, they will find the man they desire. But that Whigs of discerning minds should have been caught in the <del>covered</del> secretive trap, is an anomaly of a singular character We trust however, that northern Whigs of sound principles, will not be misled by <u>heated zeal</u> which looks not to consequences.</p>
3		<p><u>Sunday</u>. m. fair, wind N. the day fair, but many scattering clouds overspread the sky. occasionally.</p>
4		<p><u>Monday</u>. M. fair, wind W. and the day generally fair, but but clouds overspread the sky towards the close.</p>
Rail road acci dent	}	<p>Fatal accidents are frequently occurring on our Rail Roads. Last Wednesday Mr Eldrige Phillips &amp; his wife were killed on the Road about half a mile east the Palmer, depot in attempting to pass the usual crossing, as the train was approaching. The carriage was dashed to pieces &amp; he &amp; wife instantly killed. The passage of roads over rail ways, will always necessarily be attended with danger; and perhaps no precautions will in sure safety. These accidents with many others on Rail roads, are a serious objection to this mode of transportation; and a velocity of 20 miles per hour will alway be liable to fatal disasters.</p>
Re marks	}	

Sept  
5

Tuesday m. fair, wind SW.  
And the day fair & cloudy by turns.  
the {——} weather pretty warm.

The  
“free  
soil”  
party

In listening to the conversation, and perusing the writings of the men who claim to be of the now named ~~the~~ Free Soil party, we cannot but notice their total indifference & apathy to the plans and designs of the democratic party, which have hitherto kept the people of the United States in a constant turmoil. Indeed they now go so far as to say, there is no bone of contention between the two great [ ] parties, at this time, other than slavery

Its easy mode  
of conversion

ery: hence we see the most violent democrat restored to their good graces, if he only expresses a single sentiment against slavery; and had Mr Polk performed a timely sunset like that of Mr Van Buren, he would at once, have been deemed a patriot of the first order, notwithstanding his tergiversations and other political sins of his administration. And, with his consent, he might have been the candidate of the Buffalo convention. We like to see a forgiving spirit in the community, but when an old offender claims to have repented of his error, we think time should be afforded for testing his sincerity. Mr Van Buren may be a true convert, but unfortunately for him & his party, nothing appears from his pen to justify his sincerity, but his opposition to the extension of slavery into Mr Polk's forcible acquisition of Mexican territory which the free soil party, seem to consider as a very harmless stride provided slavery be excluded from the robbed territory. When a party became thus blinded to the vital instincts of the republic, perhaps it is best to leave them to their to feel the result of their intemperate zeal, and to correct their errors by experience. As regards slavery we yield to none, in our opposition to that horrid institution; but

and  
ready  
reception  
of converts

we cannot close our eyes to other ex  
 existing evils that threaten our republic  
 with ruin, and call for the utmost  
 exertions of every patriot in removing  
 from our lands. The pretension that  
 slavery is the only bone of contention  
 between the two great parties, is per  
 posterous in the extreme, and evinces  
 a blindness which ought not to prevail among  
 men of intelligence. That there  
 are in the Free Soil party, honest  
 men, we admit; but when they  
 go so far as to believe Mr Van Buren  
 a patriot, we are compelled to say  
 their good sense has been lost in their  
 indiscretion.

Its rea  
 dy Amal  
 gama  
 tion  
 with  
 demo  
 cracy }

5  
 6 Wednesday. M fair but many  
 broken clouds, and wind N.E.  
 day fair & air moderate~  
 7 Thursday. M. fair, wind N.E.  
 followed by a clear day & cool air  
 We learn that the grading of the rail  
 road from Grouts through Montague  
 & the Heart of this town, to Greenfield  
 is commenced. When this is complete  
 it will draw off transportation to  
 Boston from the Springfield route  
 and reduce its value.

Rail  
 roads  
 from  
 Grouts  
 to Green  
 field }

8 Friday. M fair, wind SW and fair  
 day, with moderate air  
 Rev. Eleazer Williams of Green Bay  
 a descendant of Miss Eunice Williams  
 who with her father Rev. John Williams  
 and his family were taken captives by  
 the French and Indians at this place,  
 in 1704 is here. Last evening he delivered a  
 discourse to our people, on the life and  
 character of Mr. Williams, his great Great  
 Grandfather, in which he gives some  
 facts relating to his services as Chaplain  
 in the Expedition against Canada in  
 the year 1709-'10 & '11 This evening he

Revd.  
 Eleazer  
 Williams  
 from  
 Green Bay }

Visit  
 of }

- Sept 8 is to deliver another address embracing some particulars of the attack on Deer field, with a letter or letters from Rouville & other officers of the Expedition containing some details of the march & action in our North meadow. Mr Williams says that on the approaching our village, within 5 or 6 miles Rouville divided his force and advanced in two columns, but that they united, before the attack was made on the village. This junction was probably made on the flat mouth of Sheldon's brook, when they deposited their baggage, & subsequently assembled their prisoners, after the battle in the meadow. on their return to Canada, Mr Williams says part of Rouville's force ascended the valley of Black river, and past mount Holly to Otter creek, and thence to the lake, and that his Great grandmother Eunice Williams, accompanied this party. Every circumstance of this expedition is interesting to me.
- 9 Saturday m. fair, wind N.; the day fair & cloudy alternately At sun set clear sky.
- At an assembly of people {—} at Marshfield in this State Daniel Webster delivered a speech, in which he came out decidedly in favor of the election of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency. We now have our two Congressional Senators in favor of the true policy Will the people of Massachusetts distrust their honor & discernment and believe Mr Van Buren a patriot? Impossible!
- 10 Sunday M. fair, wind N.E. and the day clear with fine air.
- 11 Monday M. fair, wind SW and day fair with warm air.
- The ground is now dry, no showers having occurred of late and I think I may say, we have had no old fashioned thunder storms this season.

Sept 12 Tuesday m cloudy, wind NE;  
 last evening a small shower with light  
 ning, PM fair & cool air indicat  
 ing a frost

13 Wednesday m. fair, wind NE  
 some frost last night, and a to  
tal eclipse of the moon, about midnight,  
 the day very clear, but the air  
 begins to partake of the fall temper  
 ature. The Whig Convention of  
 Massachusetts, assembles, this day.

Meeting of the Mass Convention of Whigs } at Worcester for the nomination of  
 Governor, Lt. Governor, and an Electoral  
 ticket for President; and we trust  
 the nomination of Mr. Van Buren by  
 the Buffalo Convention, will rouse  
 every ~~Whig~~ patriot to a sense of duty at  
 the approaching election & in opposing the  
 further progress of political corruptions.  
 which for more than twenty years  
 past, has sank the Government of the U.S.  
 to a low level in the profile of nations.

Mr Van Buren nomination at Buf } His nomination of Mr Van Buren,  
 falo } Though perfectly consistent on the part  
 of democracy, evinces a dereliction of prin  
 ciple in the Whigs who participated in it  
 not looked for by the honest part  
 of Community.

For a history of the U States Government  
 in relation to Slavery, we could call the  
 attention of honest inquirers to the View  
of William Jay on the Federal Government  
in behalf of slavery, in a small Vol. printed  
 at N. York 1839 particularly from page 63 to page 177  
 Yet Mr Van Buren with many of these [ ]  
 [ ] under his eye, could give his cast  
 ing vote in the Senate of the U States  
 of which he was President, to a bill ~~for~~  
 for a censorship over the press & post office  
 of the greatest turpitude {—} (See page 169)  
 and prior to his election to the Presi  
 dency, his pledge to maintain slavy  
 in the District of Columbia ~~was~~  
 {—} as follows “I must go



- Sept 13 } into the presidential chair the in flexible and uncompromising opponent to any attempts on the part of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia against the wishes of the Slaveholding states" (See page 22)
- Pledge to his southern brethren } When an old offender claims to have repented of his crimes, we require something more than his declaration to convince us of the fact. Mr Van Buren's adherence to the principles of his southern brethren, has been too palpable to be obliterated by a dash of his pen
- 14 } Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE and cool air, rendering a fire necessary in my room; the day continued cloudy & rain commenced in the afternoon. As the sun is now but about 3 degrees north of the equator probably the warm season has past, during which the infrequency of infrequency of thunder storms is as remarkable as I have noticed for several past years
- The Weather } That the laws of electricity have changed is not be supposed; but from some [ ] readily explained, the equilibrium of the prevailing fluid is less distributed It has been suggested that our long iron shaped rail roads might have an effect on thunder showers; but since lightning generally occurs in the atmosphere, between clouds differently charged, the suggestion is not admissible.
- 15 } Friday m. fair, wind SW. Last night a small shower with thunder. the somewhat cloudy.
- D.S. Hoyt's arrival } Our connection David S. Hoyt arrived home this morning. His recollection of all the movements of Gen Scott in Mexico seems to be clear, and he details them with much facility and apparent accuracy.

Sept	<u>Saturday</u> m. fair, wind N.E.
16	and the day partially cloudy and cool air
17	<u>Sunday</u> m. fair, wind S.W, but the generally cloudy.
18	<u>Monday</u> . M. cloudy, rain last night, and wind S.W. PM fair
19	<u>Tuesday</u> . m fair wind SW and fair day with pleasant air mailed a letter to my friends at <u>Vergennes</u>
20	<u>Wednesday</u> m. cloudy with some rain; wind SW
Militia Review at Green field	<p>This day a militia review at Greenfield in compliance of a Law of the Commonwealth. These parades are very attractive to our young people, who generally attend them in great numbers who are [ ] ed with show. How far these parades are conducive to military discipline is, as a question of some importance. In general they exhibit very little of the routine of the tented field, and import no useful lessons, other than the keeping up a <u>military spirit</u> which facilitates recruiting when an army is to be raised, as was the case at the commencement of the Mexican war, when our volunteers eagerly sought <u>diversion</u> in the "halls of Montezuma" totally unaware of the dangers &amp; hardship they were encounter under vertical rays of the sun. But blind and unreflecting as is their military spirit in the young, it may be wise policy in government to foster it, since wars will continue to be the lot of nations, and none can exist without a military force sufficient to enforce the laws and defend it where assaulted by rapacity. Not even a quaker community would exist without some protection of this kind for their <u>non resistance</u> affords but a false guaranty against piracy &amp; robbery.</p>
Re marks on their utility	

Septr  
 21      Thursday m. fair with broken clouds, and wind N; the day continued fair & warm.

Posi  
 tion      }  
 of France }      By the latest accounts from Europe it appears that serious apprehensions are entertained of another outbreak in France. It is said The cause of Royalty is gaining ground. in many departments. What will be the result of the present movement in that perturbed nation, is uncertain. If the higher class of the people are prepared for a free government, it is certain the lower one not ready for the change. Should the military government, a reign of terror might ensue. perhaps as bloody as that of Robespierre in the former revolution

Not  
 [    ] }  
 ing    }      The doctrine that all men are born free, and are entitled to protection of their rights & property, is undoubtedly a sound and fundamental principle. But it does not hence follow that all are fitted for rulers. In all governments that have existed, even in aristocracy, or an oligarchy which has governed the mass of the people, and when this mass has obtained the political ascendancy & repudiates the men who have been eminent in places of trust, the nation is evidently verging to anarchy; and this it is feared is the present condition of France.

The present national assembly may form a constitution for the people, yet it is extremely doubtful whether it will be accepted by a majority. But should a constitution, embracing universal suffrage, be adopted, would it long be sustained, while artful demagogues may deceive the people by their sophistry? However wise the constitution may be, it is feared that the French people will never ~~rest~~ [    ] in repose, without a strong coercive military force.

22      Friday m cloudy, wind NE but so fair and the day continued so. The sun now near the equinox and the days and nights of equal length.

- Sept  
23      Saturday m. fair, wind W, and  
the day fair with scattering clouds  
& brisk wind.
- Brad  
dock's }  
battle }  
ground }  
1755 }      Our Mexican solider, David S. Hoyt  
informs me that during a stay at Pittsburgh  
he visited Braddock's battle ground on  
the north bank of the Monongahela  
about    miles easterly of that town  
The ground is now cleared of woods  
& under cultivation, and the inhabit  
ants often find bullets & cannon shot  
and point out some of the incidents  
of the battle, but probably with no  
great accuracy. See n 11, page 78  
of my sketches for an account of this  
battle, with remarks; officers killed 26, wounded 37  
(26 & 37)
- 24      Sunday m. cloudy and wind W. the  
day fair in general.
- 25      Monday M. cloudy, wind SW  
and the day generally cloudy.
- Election }  
move    }  
ments }      Address of the late Whig Conven  
tion at Worcester, to the electors of  
Massachusetts. This is an able pro  
duction, well calculated to open the  
eyes of the people to their danger  
Taking it for granted that Gen. Tay  
lor or Gen Cass will be the next  
President it seems the political char  
acter of the two in a very satisfacto  
ry manner, and develops the schemes  
and designs of Democracy in a clear  
point of view. The nomination of Mr  
Van Buren to the Presidency, by the Buffa  
lo convention is considered as a singular  
anomaly evincing a political blindness  
which ought not to be found among  
informed people. This nomination  
though offering no chance of success may  
prevent a choice by the people, & thence  
the election into House of Representatives  
in which case who can doubt the  
success of Gen Cass and a continuation  
of the present ruinous system of admin  
istration? This step of the "free soil" party  
so called, appears to me, like insanity  
[      ]
- Wise }  
Address }  
to the }  
people }

Sept  
25

The  
free  
soil  
party

But granting to this party  
sane minds, and honest principles  
we are compeled to say they have  
lost sight of the designs of democracy  
and the conservation principles, which  
have hitherto saved our country from  
anarchy into which the election of  
Gen. Cass would plunge us, by continuing  
the present [ ] system of policy. If the party  
is about to [ ] with Ultra democracy  
it is hoped they will throw off all  
disguise, raise their standard and  
show the patriots of the country, the new  
enemy they have to oppose. Their nom  
ination of Mr. Van Buren and opposition to  
the reduction of Gov. Briggs, in this Com  
monwealth, leaves little doubt as to their  
designs. Hitherto we have supposed  
this party to have acted from honest  
principles, but in its present attitude  
it would be criminal to withhold  
an expression of its destructive  
course. with Martin Van Buren  
at the head! We shall probably next  
hear of an organized opposition to the re  
election of the present members of Congress of  
our state. The Latin proverb, "When  
God dooms to destruction, he first make  
mad", is here strikingly verified: for no  
stranger proof of madness could be  
[ ] {—} then, this nomina  
tion, degrading, immoral, & corrupting  
and if we are not mistaken, will prove  
suicidal to the party who made it.

Its  
rash  
course

The address of the Convention examines  
the whole ground most ably, and leaves  
little or nothing, to satisfy the candid  
mind, of the merits of the contest in  
the approaching election.

26

Tuesday. m. fair, wind SW, and  
the day fair & pleasant.  
Of the prospect of a rail road from  
Greenfield through Hoosak moun to Troy we  
hear little, even from its advo  
cates. We have from the first, considered the  
scheme futile, and as offering not even the most distant  
probability of success. The idea of a tunnel  
through

through Hoosac mountain for a rail road  
 is one of the wildest that ever entered the  
 mind of a sane man. But even if prac  
 ticable, what capitalist would invest his  
 money in such a project, when a rail  
 road is already constructed from Boston  
 to Albany, and amply sufficient for  
 all the trade of the west, to the former  
 place. The projectors of the scheme may  
 continue to concern themselves and the  
 people residing on the proposed route,  
 but the plan, already exhibiting but faint  
 signs of life, will, we think, die in its in  
 fancy; and teach the lesson that ardent  
zeal in a project is no substitute for  
 countless millions of money.

27 Wednesday m. fair, wind N; day  
 fair until towards sun set.

28 Thursday. M. partially cloudy,  
 wind SW; the day, or PM  
 fair. The air now begins to be  
 cold rendering a constant fire necessary  
 and I find it difficult to to pro  
 cure fuel by purchase, since our farm  
 ers are unwilling to dispose of it at a  
 reasonable price, the rail road having  
 increased the demand. In New England  
 where no good coal mines are found  
 it becomes a question, how future genera  
 tions are to obtain fuel? Timber will  
 at length length be exhausted, and coal from a  
 distance will be expensive.

In this town we have a considerable  
 surface of wood land, but I think  
 any further clearing would be [    ]  
 And would it not be good economy  
 to plant our old pasture lands with  
 maples and other trees of rapid  
 growth? The transplated maples  
 in our street presents a specimen  
 of this process.

29 Friday. m. cloudy, wind NW  
 and some rain; the day con  
 tinued cloudy with some rain wind SW  
 For a week past my friends have  
 made {—} calls, and I have

[    ]

Sept  
29

Want  
of calls  
from  
friends }

been unable to keep pari passu with the transactions of the day. Am I becoming uninteresting, or too garrulous for entertainment? Our papers present [     ] [     ] essays, and show a considerable spirit in regard to the nominations made by the different parties. Witness as I have been to the rise of these parties & the arts of demagogues since the days of President Washington cannot but regret that a spirit of patriotism has sunk to so low a level in the United States is seen at this day. We now see men, & many men of the most exalted talents repudiated as enemies to our country, and obscure individuals of doubtful character, held up for plans of the highest t in the Government of the United States, and honor, morality and justice out of the question One of our parties (the free soil) has had the audacity to nominate Martin Van Buren for the Presidency. Alas my Country! how fallen since the [     ] days of Washington when honest men were esteemed, and eminent talents were no bar to promotion. PM received a letter from my friends at Vergennes—all well—and promise me a visit about the middle of October The rail road in successful progress. Saturday M. cloudy, wind SW. the day became fair, with pleasant air, and so continued This day I purchased 2 cords of slab wood at Stebbins mill at 2 dollars per cord, besides carting. The demand for fuel, renders this resort necessary —one of the benefits of our rail road! Viz. doubling the cost of some of our necessities the only effect I have felt from it.

30

Septr 30	In further conversation with Mr. David S. Hoyt, on Braddocks battle ground he corrects the topography of Mr. Spark's <u>plan</u> , by redrawing the distance from the ford of the Mo nongahela to the place where Gage's van was attacked, to about 50 rods, instead of <u>half a mile</u> Further north the country he says, rises to high impassable hills; and the low grounds bordering [    ] river was covered with thick set woods at the time of the ambushade~ If the distance from the ford to the river ground, is correctly estimated by Mr Hoyt, Braddock's main force had hardly commenced its march from that point when Gage's van was attacked; and whether the Command er formed his troops in a line on the height, is doubtful. The provincial corps came into ac tion and maintained their position. some time from behind trees and other cover on the ground. The great error was in not dis covering the enemy before the firing com menced, which might have been done by small flanking parties. The ground is now generally cleared and cultivated, and the inhabitants pick up many relics of the battle. The loss on the part of the English was severe 26 officers killed & 37 wounded and 704 rank & file killed & wounded at least one half of the force. The enemy is estimated at 250 French and 640 Indians and their loss at 3 officers killed, & 4 wounded and 30 rank & file killed, and wounded, about the same number The remnant of Braddocks troops retreated to to Dunbars camp, carrying off the wounded with the general, and the attack on fort Du Quesne was suspended til 1758
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October	<u>Sunday</u> m. cloudy and
1	wind N.; the day cloudy with
1848	some rain.
2	<u>Monday</u> M. cloudy & rain, wind N.E.; day cloudy & wet. Some of our street maples begin to exhibit their fall hue, though the frosts have not been very severe.
3	<u>Tuesday</u> m. cloudy & wet, wind N.E. and the day raining with cold air. By European accounts it appears that the <u>Cholera</u> is moving westward from the eastern borders of Europe in the precise way as in 1832. Probably the fatal disease will extend through Eu rope and thence to America, when the people, both there & here, will find something more serious to contend with than political wrangles. The origin of this disease seems to be in Asia, and its pro gress is singular. May it not have pre valence in ancient times, and caused the downfall of ancient nations, whose ru ins attest their former grandeur? Of the history of the world we know but lit tle, and the cosmogory of Moses is con sidered as very doubtful, by our Geologists.
4	<u>Wednesday</u> m. cloudy, wind N.E. but the sun out at noon; the day most ly cloudy.
5	<u>Thursday</u> . m. fair, wind N; sun seen at noon & then clouds covered the sky until night~ From the latest intelligence from France it is evident that the nation is for a settled state, and what will be the final plan of its constitution is very doubt ful. One thing is certain. Viz. <u>without</u> <u>maintaining a strong military force, no</u> <u>government can be supported in that</u> <u>vacillating country</u> : and it is a quest ion whether the people have advanced any whit towards a free government since their revolution of 1791. We wish freedom

Unset  
t[l]ed state  
of France }

to all nations, but the boon is  
 but an empty name among a peo  
 ple unprepared for it, and [    ]  
 business meets no restraint, and here  
 the promoters of the revolution seem to  
 have lost sight of discretion. Let the na  
 tion adopt a constitution of universal  
 suffrage, ten to one it would end in an  
 archy or a military despotism as must  
 be the case in all old nations with  
 an overstocked population where the  
 people are not instructed in moral prin  
 ciples, and due obedience to the laws.

Friday m. fair wind N. and  
 the day fair & very pleasant.

Letter from President Everett and  
 Mr Bond, of the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26 of Septem  
 published in the Boston papers, An  
 nounced the discovery of the 8<sup>th</sup> satellite  
 of Saturn. Then while we improve  
 on telescopes we discover more &  
 more of the structure of the solar system  
 and where ends the wonderful ma  
 chine? With eight satellites and  
 her {—} ring, Saturn can never be  
 destitute of light. While we discov  
 er new planets & satellites. All  
 are evidently go around in their  
 orbits, by the great law of gravit  
 ation developed by Newton.  
 Wonderful man! of whom the  
 Poet says:  
 “Nature & natures laws lay hid in night  
 God said let Newton be, & all was light”<sup>17</sup>  
 If since the time of this Sage, prac  
 tical astronomy has advanced, it  
 is to be attributed to a more per  
 fect construction of instruments; but  
 not to the development of new prin  
 ciples. Even La Place in his re  
 canted calabrations, followed ~~the~~  
 the path opened by Newton.  
 Astronomy! [            ] & science!  
 excelling

Octr  
5

not rea  
dy for  
a free  
Govern  
ment }

6

Discov  
ery of  
the 8<sup>th</sup>  
satel  
lite of  
Saturn }

Reflec  
tions }

<sup>17</sup> Alexander Pope, Epitaph intended for Isaac Newton

- Octr  
6      excelling all others in conception in  
grandeur in sublimity and exalting the  
human mind to a rank almost  
super human. Continue they re  
searches into the [   ] of space  
until the fiat, "thou far mayest thou  
come and not further", forbids [   ]  
their progress. to human knowledge.
- 7      Saturday. m. fair, wind S.W.;  
day fair & pleasant.  
Our woods now, particularly on the  
side towards the setting sun pre  
sent the fall hue, which to me,  
always provides agreeable sens  
ations.
- 8      Sunday. m. fair, wind N  
and day, clear and agreeable.
- 9      Monday. M. fair wind SW  
and clear day.
- [   ] }  
[   ] }  
[   ] }  
[   ] }
- The decay of the leaf of our deciduous trees,  
seen in this month, being the pre  
cursor of winter, we might suppose  
would produce gloomy [   ] but this is  
not the effect. No season of the  
year presents more charms to me  
There is a sort of pleasing melancholy ~~placidness~~  
in the atmosphere which excites calm  
reflection, and turns back the mind  
to retrospection, and the scenes of youth  
are strikingly impressed. This retrospection  
also brings to view the lives & characters  
of our forefathers, and the scenes of these  
times, as we have heard them related by  
the actors who participated in them.  
and these oral relations make a deeper  
impression on the minds of youth than  
when read in printed histories.  
These October reflections may be pecu  
liar to myself, but I believe they are  
in some degree natural to contemplative  
minds. The spring season may produced some  
lively sensations, but not more useful.

<p>Octr 10 Davis &amp; Squiers work on the western mounds</p>	<p>}</p>	<p><u>Tuesday</u> m. cloudy, wind S.W. PM fair and pleasant In <u>James Halls</u> work entitled <u>The West</u>, printed at Cincinnati 1848, I find a notice of the forthcoming work of Dr. <u>Davis</u> &amp; <u>Mr Squier</u> of Chillicothe, on the <u>western mounds</u>. Which is said to be an important work, throwing much light on this perplexing subject. The work, we are informed, is nearly ready for sale, but probably will be expensive, from its numerous plates. To collect the materials for this work, the two gentlemen, it is said, have pursued their researches with great zeal and perseverance, critically examining the interior of the mounds &amp; other works found in the western country. and making drawings of the objects found in them. If the Gentlemen have removed the veil which has so long shrouded these mementos of an ancient people, unknown in history, they will have performed a task, for which every inquiring mind will bestow the highest thanks. The work, we are informed, is under the patronage of our national Institute.</p>
<p>11  Dr Graham's lecture</p>	<p>}</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u>. m. fair, wind and the day Last evening Dr Graham of Northampton delivered a lecture in our town Hall on the political character of Mr Van Buren, in which, it is said, he proved the total unfitness of that gentleman for President. The Doctor promises to continue his lecture next Wednesday evening at our town hall He is said to be a first rate orator &amp; most favorable argument. and it is hoped he</p>

Octr  
11

to be  
contin  
ued  
next  
Wednes  
day eve

will make a salutary impression upon the mistaken zeal of the party calling themselves the party of free soil, who seem to have shut their eyes to the designs of the leaders of the loco-foco party in the northern states. evidently acting without the least regard to the welfare of our country. Had this loco party alone, nominated Mr Van Buren for the presidency, they would have acted consistently with their disorganizing plans; for in his election, or that of General Cass, they would have obtained the man of their hearts. But when I see honest men, hitherto deemed friends of true liberty, so lost to discretion as to cast their votes for a man so strongly opposed to the welfare of the country as has been Mr Van Buren, I cannot but despair of a continuation of our Government under the form of liberty. Until this time I have flattered myself, that the good sense of a majority of the northern people, would preserve our liberties; but my confidence in this safe ground, is now much diminished, and I fear our future history will tell a "sad tale of glory gone", a tale from which it will appear, that a people with the best designs, attempted to establish liberty on the rights of man, but from a want of political virtue, fell back to anarchy and its concomitant misery. This will be a dark chapter in our history, and future generations may long lament our want of wisdom at a time when every prospect favored success in the establishment of a system of Government favorable to the rights of the people. In a word, no event has occurred of late so threatening to liberty as the nomination of Mr. Van Buren to the Presidency.

Thursday. m. fair, wind W; the day was fair & pleasant.

12

The Greenfield Gazette announces the  
death

Octr  
12

Death  
of Gen  
Lang  
ley }

His cha  
racter  
as a  
military  
officer }

death of Hon. Thomas Langley of  
Hawley, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, last,  
aged 74. A writer gives us an ac  
count of his civil life, but omits  
every thing relating to his milita  
ry—not even noticing his tile as a Brigadier Gen  
eral of our militia, or his service, as  
Colonel of a regiment, in which capa  
city he commanded a detached regiment  
at South Boston in the war of 1812.

As a militia officer Gen. Langley  
acquired notoriety by his assiduous  
application to the study of tactics, and  
his regiment was noted for its readi  
ness in maneuver and its orderly  
conduct on parade, little inferior  
to standing troops. All this, the writer  
to whom I have alluded, may deem  
as of no importance, in the life of  
a civilian, and therefore studiously keep it out  
of view; as incompatible with, a distort  
ed scheme of Christianity which denies  
the right of [ ] even in a de  
fensive war. Gen. Langley was not  
of this stamp. He possessed a taste for  
military science, and studied it as a  
duty he owed his country.

Gen Langley's ancestors were military  
men; his Grandfather, on the mater  
nal side, Lawrence, served in the  
campaign of 1758 under Gen. Abercrom  
bie, as a Caplain, and fell nobly fight  
ing with a body of Indians near  
Half way Brook in the State of New York  
that year. His father, Edmond Langley  
served in the campaign of 1776, at  
Ticonderoga under Gen. St. Clair, and  
after the war, was elected Colonel of a  
regiment of militia, in the Country of  
Hampshire in Massachusetts: and two  
of the Generals younger brothers were respectable  
officers in the militia—one a Colonel &  
the other a Captain.

Gen Langley, though but once called to the  
tented field, by his faithfulness & assiduity

won

- Octr  
12 won the esteem of his fellow citizens,  
and demonstrated his ability for actual service. In the various offices  
he sustained in civil life, he was remarkable for his faithfulness and  
punctuality, and his townsmen and intimate friends, will long remember  
his worth as a military man & citizen.
- 13  
Reflec }  
tions }  
on the }  
Season } Friday. m fair, wind N.E., followed  
by a fair & pleasant day. All is calm, serene & reflective [ ] older scenes  
flit before me like half-recollected dreams—I recall the memories of  
deceased friends, their exploits, their adventures, their virtues, and for  
a moment fancy I am conversing with a former roll of worthies and though  
the vegetable world is now putting on its somber dress, I perceive harmonies—wonderful harmonies in nature  
evincing wisdom, power & goodness in a great first cause—the Creator & preserver of the universe  
Incomprehensible Being! of whom man can form but an imperfect  
conception, but of whose existence ample proof is found in every part  
of his works. Here we stop, wonder & admire
- 14 Saturday. m. fair, wind S.W. and  
a fair pleasant day, much of the character of yesterday.  
If at any time I feel inclined to make a tour it is at this season; but  
my age admonishes me that my traveling days are past, and that  
home & friends are my best resources of enjoyment. Still I [ ] over distant

- Octr  
14 countries in a sort of rail road speed  
and sometimes take flight to the planet  
ary regions; whence a view of the  
universe is as confined as from  
our little earth. What then is man  
in the great scale of nature! A  
microscope used [—] a mere point  
Still, by a due use of his reasoning  
faculties, he is capable of deep research  
and improvement in knowledge:  
“Then say not man’s imperfect, heav’n in fault;  
Say rather man’s as perfect as he ought;  
His knowledge measur’d to his state and place  
His time a moment, and a point his space”<sup>18</sup>
- 15 Sunday. M fair, wind N.E. and  
fair day, very clear.
- 16 Monday m. partially cloudy, wind SW  
and the day generally clear.
- Discov }  
of a }  
mam }  
moth }  
tooth }
- We learn that a mammoth tooth, weighing  
7 ¼ lbs. has been found at Mount Holly  
in Vermont, excavating the rail-road,  
imbedded in a mass of gravel 10 or 15 feet  
below the surface of the ground. If this  
is a fact, we have another proof of  
the change the earth’s surface has under  
gone since its creation. We were not  
aware of the existence of these relics in New  
England, and especially on our moun  
tains, since they are generally found in allu  
vial regions.
- Re }  
flec }  
tions }
- In contemplating these changes of the  
surface of the Globe; interesting objects are  
presented. To adopt the language of the  
Bakewell, an English Geologist “What va  
rious reflections arrived upon the mind,  
if we carry back our thoughts to the time  
when the whole surface of the globe was  
agitated by tumultuous & conflicting ele  
ments; or to the succeeding intervals of repose  
when all were one vast solitude; and

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<sup>18</sup> Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, *Epistle 1*



- Octr  
16 again to a subsequent period, when the deep solitude of nature was broken by the bellowing of the great mastodon and the mammoth, who stalked the lords of creation, and perished in the last grand revolution of the globe before the formation of man!" Introduction to Geology, page 429.
- 17 Tuesday, m partially cloudy, some rain, wind SW & warm air; clouds soon broken & day fair. In general We are now absolutely inundated with political lectures, preparatory to the coming elections; and if every country was in state of the [ ] it is at this time. The anomalous bifurcation of the free soil party indicates a rotten foundation in the political edifice, which if not thoroughly repaired render it incapable of withstanding the whirl winds now threatening it with total ruin.
- 18 Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind N this day, partially cloudy  
In the morning Elizabeth and little Charles arrived from Halifax, where they had been at her fathers house one week. She confirms the account of the mammoth tooth dug up at mount Holly, which she saw on her route
- 19 Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE and the day cloudy & rainy~  
Last evening I attended the 2d Lecture of Dr Graham at our town-hall  
He was diffuse, favorable and conclusive, occupied at least three hours, riveting the attention of the audience. When on his [ ] [ ], I lost the chain of his argument
- Party }  
lect  
ures }
- Dr Gra }  
hams  
2d lec  
ture }

Octr  
19

but in his address, and two hours previous conversation at Col. Wilson's I found in him intellect of a rare kind. If in any thing I differed from him, it was in his estimation of the worth and talents of what we call our Great men; and, on this subject much may be said, and many erroneous notions corrected. The position I assume is- A man may be great on some points and below mediocrity on others, merely from his attentions to particular subjects. to & the neglect of others. Thus I have seen for instance, Great Lawyers who were very little versed in Natural philosophy. and mathematical deductions; and no man is found to be in Encyclopaedia. Dr. Graham it is evident has extended his status to a variety of subjects and passes the happy talent of communicating his ideas in [ ] & favorable language. If his theories are sometimes too refined for ordinary capacities they are still ingenious and demand consideration. On the subject of phrenology I found him leaning to the system, yet far from adopting its absurdities, and if I understood him discarded the notion of separate organs. He thinks however that the anatomy of the brain as [ ] [ ] [ ], is deserving of little respect. New conformations may be suggested, but still the combined ardor of matter & mind will remain a mystery.

- Octr 20      Friday m. cloudy wind NW  
 A Loco } At noon clear, and PM fair &  
 foco      cloudy & the air becoming cold  
 Conven } This day a loco-foco assemblage  
 tion      at Greenfield, with public speakers  
             from various parts of the State, for the  
             purpose of keeping up the party.  
             From their ill success for several years  
 Its       } past in Massachusetts, an increase of mem  
 object } bers at this time is not to be looked for.  
             But the rise of the Van Buren party  
             has given a new spring to the locos, and they  
             hope by some means to reap profit from  
             it. In drawing votes from the Whigs, for  
             Van Buren, they know that virtually they  
             aid the election of Gen. Cass. The object no  
             doubt is, to prevent a choice of the electoral  
             ticket of the Whigs in Massachusetts by  
             the people; and if some of their party  
             should vote for Van Buren, they risk no  
             thing, for in case of his election, they would  
             find the man of their hearts; and in the  
             case of no choice of President by the people  
             they feel little fear of the result in Congress.  
             The present course of the anti slavery par  
             ty, is anomalous in stupid—is suicidal  
             and its direct tendency, the election  
             of Cass to the presidency, in which case  
             slavery will be as triumphant as in the  
             administration of Van Buren.
- 21      Saturday. M. fair, wind NE and  
             the day fine & cloudy.  
             The topics of the week have been po  
             litical, increasing in intensity as we  
             approach the election—contest, as  
             if nothing else were worthy of con  
             sideration. To what is this [    ]  
             situation of the people owing? [    ]  
             to the influence of demagogues who  
             have poisoned the minds of the people  
             by misrepresentations, began in the adminis  
             tration of Washington & wickedly continued  
             to this day under the name of democracy

- Octr 22 Sunday m. fair, wind NW and the day fair; the air decreasing in its temperature
- 23 Monday m. fair, wind W and a fair & fine day.
- 24 Tuesday m. cloudy, wind NW, the day continued cloudy with some rain.
- Our  
com  
mon  
field } The proprietors of our common field held a meeting to regulate its fall feeding. At a previous meeting, they had voted to prohibit all feeding, excepting by cows, which produced a considerable excitement; and the object of the present meeting was to repeal the former vote. It appears that three parties are now formed, one to shut the field against any feeding, another to feed with cows only, and the other to feed with all kinds of cattle, as has been the former practice~
- Proceed  
ings of  
proprie  
tors } The party for no feeding claim to act from economical ground, believing that the fertility of the land would be [    ] by suffering the feed to remain as a manure. But admitting this to be true, it remains a question whether this advantage would compensate for the loss of the feed, in the fall season, and adding about a month to the barn feeding? In our climate the winter feeding of stock is [    -    ] upon the profits of the farmer, and to add a month to that season seems to be an unnecessary expensive {——} hardly within

Octr  
24

the rules of economy; and the confining of the field to cow only, is evidently unjust to the large land holders, who have a stock of other cattle. General feeding has been the practice ever since the town has been settled, and our fathers were not blind to their interest. But in these days of improvement we are full of the theoretical experiments many of which prove abortive, and recoil upon the good sense of their projectors. While we are thus innovating upon former practices, it is to be regretted that party spirit is too prevalent; but is not this the effects of our political wrangling, whose tendency is to prostrate all moral obligations, and generous feelings, towards our fellow men. Let us not forget that the happiness of society depends on the humane feelings of its members, and that when these become extinct, society is far from being a blessing.

25

Wednesday. M. fair, wind W and a fine pleasant day. While nature puts on its placid attire man, who claims to be the only rational animal on earth, is restless, uneasy, and turbulent; and in this; as well as other parts of the civilized world, he seems to be approaching a state of anarchy, all former lessons of experience and repudiated, and utopian theories are substituted as improvements!

26

Thursday. M. hazy, wind S.W. Pm the clouds thickened & shut out the sun. and the air cold, Another Lecture at our town hall in the evening in aid of the Van Buren cause & election of Gen. Cass.

Octr  
26

Van  
Buren  
Lecture

In  
aid of  
demo  
cracy

Real  
senti  
ments  
of the  
party

27

The zeal with which certain leaders of this [ ] pursue it, is of a singular character and not much less hostile to the welfare of the Country than Jacobism democracy. Since the first organization of the party now claiming the name of free soil, I have kept a watchful eye upon their conduct; but though I had perceived a leaning towards democracy, I had not anticipated so sudden coal essence with that party. If any doubts remained of the designs of the party, it is now removed. Their opposition to Governor Briggs, Reed and the Whig members of Congress from this state all determined opposers of slavery—winds beyond reasonable doubt, that they have expressed the cause of democracy in its most deleterious forms. Knowing as they do, that their efforts for the Van Buren ticket will result in the election of Gen. Cass, they are no longer to be considered doubtful in their political course. Already some of them speak of Cass as a patriot superior in talent to Webster, or Clay or Taylor, or any other to whom the whigs are willing to ~~submit~~ intrust the Government of the United States. His divestiture of disguise, may be beneficial to the liberty of the country, by showing who are its friends and enemies. But the democratic party will be managed by the acquisition of these envigilinis and their ruinous schemes be continued to the total prostration of liberty in the Union, if not entirely checked.

Friday m fair; wind NE; the day fair but cool. By a late account at Boston, it appears that Europe remains in an unsettled state & the final result is [ ]

Octr  
27

[     ] }  
of France }

omin }  
ous }

In France the Constitution remains unfinished, and symptoms indicate a return to monarchy. Serious disturbances have occurred in the national assembly and cries of viva Robespierre and up with guillotine have been heard among the people~ Is the nation prepared for a free government? Clearly not & without a strong military force. Such a government could not exist a day. The democracy of France is unenlightened, furious, and ready for any excesses, and the informed part of community have committed an error in supposing a majority of the people prepared for a free government, and, in fact, demands our commiseration. If in the United States, we are exempted from these excesses, it is owing to a more chastened character and a habit of submitting to a majority; but it must be admitted that were one too much under the influence of unprincipled demagogues who would invert the order of nature for the gratification of their evil propensities. Let the honest and discerning men of the community keep and open eye upon the designs of these disturbers of harmony & rational government, and we may yet become a great & happy people.

28

Saturday. m. fair, wind SW; the day fair & pleasant. During the week past the intelligence from Europe is of a gloomy character. and nothing cheering is seen by the philanthropist; the democratic spirit prevails the nations, but unfortunately without the intelligence requested for free governments. While a large portion of the people remain on this condition liberty to them, will be but another name for licentiousness. By

- Octr  
28  
News  
from Europe } By the arrival of a steamer at N. York last Wednesday, on a passage of eleven days, we learn that Vienna, after a severe contest, is in the hands of insurgents, the Empiro having fled. The same arrival informs us that 27 cases of cholera had occurred in London and several in Edinburgh. Probably the disease will reach America, bore the lapse of many months. The origin and progress of this disease baffles investigation & remains a mystery.
- 29 Sunday m. cloudy & rainy, wind SW; the day continued cloudy with rain We hear of the sudden death of Samuel Field Esqr. of this town, last night aged 73. Mr Field death was sudden" he returned home from Greenfield about dusk, was taken ill soon after and died before midnight, his standing in society was respectable, and he many warm friends, besides family who mourn his loss.
- 30 Monday. m cloudy, wind N.W. and the day fair & pleasant. I am now perusing the 3d Series of Buckingham's Travels in the United States. in 3 Vols 8 vo. entitled the Eastern & Western States. his travels in the slave states (2 vols I have already perused. The author is copious in his views, claims to be impartial and free from prejudice & perhaps is more so than English travelers in general. The work is embellished with elegant plates, and presents a great extent of information in relation to our country and is [     ] by many high characters in
- Death of Samuel Field }
- Buckingham's Travels }



Octr  
30

England, whose attention is  
is now turned to our country, with  
the early history of which, Mr Buck  
ingham seems to be extensively ac  
quainted, and gives ~~hold~~ the first  
settlement of places visited, as well  
as their progress. ~~and~~ Of course  
his work embraces much of history  
and geography, as well as anecdotes  
of the early settlers.

Mr Buckingham extended his travels  
into ----- ~~into~~ nearly all the states of  
the Union, and has collected a mass  
of intelligence which cannot fail  
to interest discerning minds.

31

Trees  
&  
woods  
aspect  
of

Tuesday. m cloudy & rainy, wind SW  
the day continued cloudy with  
some rain. Our trees and moun  
tain woods, divested of their foliage,  
present a winter aspect; but though  
trees apparently deprived of life,  
they are under elaboration for a  
[ ] existence, as caloric is diffused  
by the rays of the returning sun. Not  
so with animals: they live to moderate grow, and  
decline in a comparatively short time  
then die, and are soon separated into  
their constituent of elements by decompo  
sition. Trees ultimately undergo a [ ]  
process, but some continue to flourish for many  
centuries, as if beyond the laws of decay.

November 1848~

1

Wednesday. m. fair, wind SW and  
a fair day. and very clear atmosphere  
More Mammoth remains found  
on the Rutland rail-road. By a  
letter of 20<sup>th</sup> instant, Mrs Gillant informs

- Nov  
1  
Tusk  
of a  
mam  
moth  
found
- my son's wife, now here, that a  
Horn (tusk of a mammoth) 7 or 8 feet  
in length has been dug from their  
rail road, but does not state whe  
ther the tusk was found at or near  
the place where the mammoth tooth  
was excavated; but the two relics  
prove that the mammoth was  
once an inhabitant of Vermont:  
and perhaps other relics will be  
found, in excavating the road.  
See page 204.
- 2  
Thursday. m. fair wind W and the  
day fair & rather cool.  
Daughter Elizabeth & Charly entered  
the cars for Greenfield, & thence to go  
by stage to her father's at Halifax.  
They left our depot at 3 ½ oclock  
PM and I fear will make a late  
arrival.
- 3  
Mr  
Ash  
mans  
ad  
dress
- Friday. m. partially clear.  
George Ashman Esqr, our member  
of Congress, is to deliver an address  
in the evening to our people, on the  
coming elections. Among the poli  
ticians of the day, this Gentleman  
justly claims ranks in the highest order,  
his opposition to the unconsti  
tuional strides of President Polk  
in the late war with Mexico; is too  
well known to be forgotten; And  
let it be remembered, that a party as  
summing the name of the free soil party  
are endeavoring by misrepresentation  
to prevent his reelection to Congress, which  
they are ready to cast their votes  
for Martin Van Buren for the Pres  
idency. As indeed shade of  
Washington

Novr

3

to be  
delivered  
at our  
Hall

}

Washington, look down with filial  
pity and commiserate upon thy  
wandering Children , who from a  
deep sense of the wrongs of the op  
pressed blacks of the south, have lost  
sight of the errors of our Government,  
and the dignity once the bases of  
northern republicans.

From my knowledge of Mr Ash  
mans, honesty, integrity and ability  
I believe he will acquit himself  
honorably ~~to himself~~ and satisfactorily  
to the unprejudiced part of his audience.  
I regret that my impaired hearing pre  
vents my attendance on the address.

4

Saturday. M partially cloudy, wind  
and the day

Its  
full  
attend  
ance

}

The address of Mr. Ashman last evening  
was attended by a large assembly from  
this town and Greenfield, with a band of  
musick, and our town hall filled to  
repletion. For more than three hours  
the orator riveted the attention of the  
audience to the important truths  
he developed, in his most happy man  
ner, and the duplicity of Martin  
Van Buren was forcibly portrayed  
in all of its twisting & turnings to the  
dismay of his advocates, who must  
have felt the recklessness of their nomi  
nation. The address was timely and  
it is believed, will provided a useful ef  
fect in reclaiming the wavering, and con  
firming the steady friends of the country  
in the course they are pursuing.

& ef  
fects

}

We are now close upon the Presidential, as  
well as the state elections, and may all re  
pair to the ballot boxes as a duty they owe  
to the society of which they are members  
not with indifference or rashness, but with  
steady principles of rectitude, and love  
of order; and in the choice of candidates  
for offices, may none be biased by under

Novr  
 4 influences of party spirit,--all  
 regarding the duty they owe to  
their conscious to their country  
and their God.

Gen }  
 Cass } In touching upon the claims of Gen  
 Cass to the Presidency, Mr Ashman made  
 no attacks upon his private character  
 but placed his objections to him, on  
 his political principles, which are equal  
 ly [ ] to the country as Mr Polk's, [—]  
 [—] election in all his sympathies be  
 ing southern, and his thirst for  
 conquest the same as those of that  
 reckless chief. whose motto was  
"Total extinction of European territory  
in North America." A motto al  
 ready embraced by Gen Cass  
 and whether the Island of Cuba,  
 or the British provinces on our north  
 receive the first fraternal hug, is  
 the question. Another democratic  
 dynasty will probably settle the  
 the point. The present condition of  
 Great Britain may invite a northern  
 expedition; but the annexation of Cu  
 ba will be more congenial to our south  
 ern brethren, who feel the importance;  
 of continuing slavery in that Island;  
 and would our northern democracy  
 interpose obstructions to this [ ]  
 movement?

His }  
 course }  
 if elect }  
 ed }

Free }  
 Soil }  
 party } But our sagacious "Free soil" breth  
ren see not no evil in conquer  
 of terrty provided slavery be from  
 it. That such men should be rea  
 dy to cast their votes, for a Van Buren  
 is not a matter of wonder; nor  
 would a complete [ ] with de  
 mocracy surprise me. Under these im  
 pressions I almost [ ] of the [ ]  
 of our country.

Novr  
5

Sunday. m cloudy with rain  
wind S. and mild air; Day  
continued rainy nearly throughout, frequently  
severe.

old  
floods }

Within my recollection sweeping  
floods occurred in our meadow, of  
ten it was opened for feeding, and  
the cattle were sometimes ex  
posed to drowning.

About sun sett, the weather fair and  
wind changed to N.E.

After heavy falls of rain we sometimes  
see a sudden change to a clear sky.

Fall  
ing  
clouds }

may not this be caused by the fall of  
the of the whole aqueous vapor composing the  
clouds in which case the expression  
the fall of a cloud” may not be imp  
proper.

Water  
in the  
atmos  
phere }

The water sustained in the atmos  
phere, in aqueous vapor, or chemical  
solution, is supposed to be great,  
probably varying at different times,  
but no certain data offer by which  
to determining the quantity. By care  
ful observation of the quantity of  
rain fallen in a given time and on  
known surface, may give a clue to  
a solution; but still the quantity which  
falls in dew will render the result very  
doubtful; and perhaps we can never  
arrive at anything beyond conqut  
tive.

6

Monday. M. fair, wind SW; the  
day fair but many clouds at PM  
In the evening Elizabeth, little Charly  
& her brother Franklin, arrived  
from Halifax, in a family carriage  
Asiatic Cholera. In a communication  
from Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston  
inserted in the papers of that City, he says

Novr

6

Dr

Jackson  
disserta  
tion on  
this Chole  
ra.

“I do not believe that the Asiatic Cholera will prevail to any considerable extent in the New-England states, for the geological character of the country appears opposed to it I believe I made reference to the influence of calcareous soils in the induction of the cholera in my letter to Dr. James Jackson, on the cholera in Vienna, which letters were published in the autumn of 1832, in the Boston ~~American~~ medical magazine.”

The following is an extract of a Lecture delivered by him, in Boston, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1834.

Its prev  
alence  
on cal  
cacous  
soils

“The progress of the Asiatic Cholera, shows also that there is such a thing as Medical Geology, for the cities situated on limestone or tertiary soils have always suffered most severely from that scourge. I have repeatedly advised, that on the occurrence of the cholera in this country, persons who might be fearful of that disease, would find a safe refuge in the primary regions of New England.

[ ]  
tive  
regions  
less lia  
ble to it

“We have a right to infer that since it never has visited the granit countries of Switzerland or Tyrol in Europe, while it followed the calcareous districts around; and districts of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont or Massachusetts; while it did follow the calcareous formations through Canada, New York Ohio and along the Mississippi that the cacarous soil or water had much to with the production of the disease.

We know that the bowels of any [ ] man who travels through the cacarous {——} districts of the western states, are much disturbed by the action of bicarbonate of lime, which is contained in the water, and hence we might naturally infer that such a disturbing course

Novr  
6  
Its  
course  
on the  
map of  
the Globe

might render the constitution more liable to the cholera which has its seat in the stomach and small intestines. Take a map of the Globe and trace the river of the Asiatic cholera, and then examine into the Geological [ ] [ ] of its tracks, and you will find that it is calcareous and that the principal [ ] of the disease were in tertiary bottoms, where the springs and well water and highly charged with salts of lime. Vienna & Paris are the two best known of the cacarious tertiary basins, and those cities you will know the cholera committed its most fearful ravages.” Whether the Doctor’s theory is sound we know not; but it is flattering to the primitive regions of New-England where, in the former visit of the disease to their country, it was unknown. If this be the origin of the disease the atmospheric theory is set aside.~

Re  
mar  
ks

7  
Town  
meet  
ing

Tuesday m. fair, wind W. and day all are flocking to the ballot-box to deposit their votes for Electors of President of the United States. The nominees are General Zachary Taylor (Whig) Gen. Cass (Democrat) and Martin Van Buren (non descript) This triangular contest evinces a disturbed state of the public mind, which ought not to exist among an enlightened people.

Votes  
for Elec  
tors

Result of Votes in the town:  
 Whig ticket ---162  
 Democrat-----131  
Free Soil-----111  
 } Total 404

Taking the above as a specimen of the votes of the state, there will be no choice of electors in which case the Governor will call an extra session of the General Court, to elect a ticket for the Senate &., at an expense chargeable to the [ ] of a few rash backers who look not to consequences.

Novr  
8

Election }  
Return }

the }  
third }  
party }

Its ru }  
inous }  
effects }

Wednesday m. fair, wind S.  
and the day fair, but cold  
From returns given in the Springfield  
daily Republican of this morning, it is prob  
able that there is no choice of Electors  
by the people; the democratic and  
non-descript tickets, containing a  
plurality: of course an extra meeting  
of the General Court will be called.  
This is, I believe the first failure that  
ever occurred of the kind, in the State,  
and does it not show a deplorable  
state of the public mind? Can a  
people thus divided long maintain  
their liberty?  
Hitherto the Conservative or Whig  
party, have had to contend with  
democracy, in its wildest forms; but  
who looked for the rise of another  
party with principles equally wild  
if not more ruinous than those of  
democracy.  
In this third party we see men who  
have hitherto commanded our esteem &  
confidence for their supposed soundness  
of principle; but when we see them  
casting their votes for one grown  
grey in error and supported slavery  
in all of its forms, we are astonished  
confounded and recoil from the  
anomalous scene, and ask if consist  
ency is a virtue, or moral obliga  
tions incumbent duties.  
By our constitutions the right of voting  
is guaranteed to all, but, none have a  
right to vote heedlessly or corruptly  
and without regard to the public  
weal. The creation of a third party  
may be fraught with more evil than  
is seen on a slight view. Its effect may  
be to stop the wheels of Government  
by preventing a choice of officers  
in either party, in which case anarchy  
must insue. Let then its promoters  
open their eyes to the evils they are  
inflicting on their country & their children  
and posterity at large.



Novr  
9

Thursday m cloudy with a sprinkling of snow on the ground, and wind W; the day fair.

Favorable  
reports  
of the  
election

Reports in favor of the Taylor ticket electors, are very flattering in the Springfield Daily, of this morn. His final success will be hailed with joy by the patriots of the country, and, it is believed, will exempt it from a Polk misrule, for the term of four years. The state of New-York, it is said, has performed wonders on the part of the Whigs—elected its Whig governor, Lt. Governor and many members of Congress of the same character. Massachusetts has suffered the most from the Van Buren tornado; but it is believed, its Legislature will set the state to rights in an extra session. It now remains to be seen what will be the course of the democratic & Van Buren parties in the state election next Monday. A coalescence would not be surprising to those who have witnessed their abatements, Where a people have cast aside honorable principles, all calculation is set at naught, and an upright course is out of the question. The men who have raised this tornado, should be marked with indelible characters, significant of their indiscretion and folly~

Remarks

my  
son's  
arrival

In the afternoon my Son Arthur arrived from the City of New-York which he left yesterday, and he confirms the report of General Taylor's election, and the Whig success in the State of New-York.

A democratic lecture in the evening, at our town hall, soliciting aid from our Van Buren converts at the election of State officers, on Monday next, [     ]  
if

Novr 9 if obtained from this source, may not be ready to submit to the de mocratic drill, nor to the implicit obedience, to orders so necessary in in the discipline of the democratic corps.

10 Friday. m. fair, wind N and day fair, cold.

Further report of the election of Electors. } The election of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency, is stated as certain in the Springfield Daily of this morning. If so, the democratic plans of conquest are put at rest for four years But it is mortifying to the patriot, that the Van Buren delusion has made so much progress in our State, where we boast of political knowledge. The people it is hoped, will turn from this [ ] the danger of placing confidence in men of doubtful patriotism. That the people of this commonwealth should have been so far deceived as to cast votes for Martin Van Buren, is one of the most singular anomalies that has occurred within our knowledge; and whether the leaders of the plan, will join the old opposition party, is to be seen. Such a coalescence would evince a dereliction of principle not looked for in men who had been deemed honorable~

Reflections } The present condition of the U. States bodes nothing very favorable to the permanency of our Union. If Gen Taylor's election is certain, we may look for peace and prosperity during his term; but that indeed we may for a man of a different character; for democracy will never consent to rest in repose since it flourishes best in a storm. Under a wise and steady administration the [ ] principles & ambitions as [ ] [ ]

Novr

10

Natu  
ral  
course  
of a  
free  
gover  
ment

Seeing no chance for promotion  
~~he~~ commences the work of disorgan  
 ization by deluding the people with  
 false pretences, even claims to patriotism  
 and the discontinued part of commu  
 nity so on follow in his trail; and  
 thus a new party burst forth  
 claiming reform for its basis.  
 To insure success men of eminent  
 talents & street integrity must be repudi  
 ated as aristocrats and the clamorous demagogue singled  
 out for places of trust; while the deluded  
 mass spout hosannas for the progress  
 of reform and true liberty.

Van  
Bu  
ren  
party

To these facts the present Van Buren  
 party, indicate a total blindness or  
 callous indifference. We will not say  
 they are conscious of error, for among  
 them we believe are many honest men  
 but egregiously deceived, their sympa  
 thy for the opprest slave having [ ]  
 [ ] their judgments. For their oppo  
 sition to slavery we blame them not,  
 since we are in no respects below them  
 in opposing this horrible evil, but  
 differ in the mode of accomplishing it.  
 more reflection, we believe, would  
 show them their error and bring  
 them back to their duty as enlightened  
 republicans.

11

Saturday. M. fair, wind N.E.  
 and day fair, but scattering  
 clouds, and air cold. indi  
 cating an early approach of  
 winter, the [ ] we give to the  
 season of snow generally from  
 5 to 6 months duration in which the  
 farmer is compelled to support his  
 stock of animals from his barn  
 magazines, an expensive unavoid  
 able in winter countries—a  
 draw back upon his profits.

Novr  
12

Of the  
State  
election  
tomor  
row }

The  
Van  
Buren  
party }

13

Election  
of Gov  
&c. }

Sunday, m cloudy, wind N  
and the ground covered with snow  
the day continued cloudy with  
some snow.

Tomorrow our state Elections take  
place, and we are to see whether  
the Van Buren party will persist  
in their reckless course in defeating  
the choice of Governor and other  
officers. A defeat of the choice  
of the present members of Congress  
would be gratifying to the south  
ern slaveholders, and add nothing  
to the success of the Van Buren party.  
The fable of the dog in the manger  
is a striking exemplification of this  
course of this party. While the can  
ine sentinel preserved the fodder  
in the manger, he found nothing  
for his voracious maw, and starv  
ed himself~

Monday m. cloudy, wind NE  
and the ground fully covered  
with snow: the sun out before  
noon, & rest of day fair.  
attended meeting for choice  
of Gov. Lt. Gov. Senators and rep  
resentatives for General Court and  
Congress, and deposited the Whig  
ticket, as the only one to insure  
safety and prosperity to our Country.  
Two other tickets, democratic & Van  
Buren, being run. In the present di  
vided condition of the people, there is  
little probability of any choice, and  
a [     ] contest may result in the  
downfall of our liberties. a fate com  
mon to a people where univer  
sal suffrage is the basis of the  
government. Were all the voters  
[     ]

- Novr  
13 [ ] by calm reflection  
and sound judgment differences  
in political sentiment would be  
rare, ~~and~~ the government moves  
smoothly onwards, and the peo  
ple be happy and prosperous
- Votes }  
cast }  
in past } The following [ ] of votes is  
reported to me:  
For Governor Briggs 163.—Cushing 117  
Van Buren ticket, 82.  
Representative to General Court:  
Zebina Stebbins Whig, 154, Ira Ab  
ercrombie, democrat, 111, Henry K  
Hoyt (Van Buren) 89, -- no choice, and  
meeting dissolved. Votes from George Ashman  
representative to Congress (Whig)  
votes for Whig Senators Devin, Blake
- 14 Tuesday m. fair, wind N, and  
day fair and the snow nearly dis  
olved.
- Reflec }  
tions }  
on }  
elections } Having put through the perturbations  
of the elections we now hope to see harmo  
ny and kind feelings prevailing among  
the people. These annual contest, are  
demoralizing in a high degree, and  
destructive of social intercourse. Let  
the honest part of community hearken  
less to the disorganizing demagogue  
and it is believed this unhappy state  
of things would subside and har  
mony be again restored for our [ ]  
Unfortunately, for the country A por  
tion of the people have mis  
taken licentiousness for liberty, and  
imbibed the notion that men of emi  
nent talents are aristocratical, and  
enemies to the common people; have  
in selecting candidates for office, they  
carefully avoid those above medioc  
raty, unless to higher acquirements  
be added a base submission to a  
wild party, whose object is the

Novr 14		repudiation of all former systems of government, and the adoption of utopian schemes not less wild than themselves: This has been and I fear will be, the <u>bane</u> of free governments, where the honest part of community act under the influence of unprincipled demagogues, who would reverse the order of nature to carry out their evil designs. May the good sense of the people, no longer be misled by these enemies of pure republicanism.
Influence of Demagogues	}	
15		<u>Wednesday</u> . M. cloudy, wind S.W. and day cloudy, but sun seen at the close~ From returns of the state elections given Boston papers of yesterday, it is highly probable that Governor Briggs is reelected by the people; they state also, that 6 of the Whig representative to Congress are reelected and Mr Ashman, of our district, by a handsome majority. This the Van Buren meteor flashed for a moment and then dissipated in smoke. The <u>old</u> democratic party appears to be on the decline; and it is hoped it will, at length, give up its opposition to a <u>rational system of</u> republican government, and return to harmony and good feeling.
Of the State Election	}	
16		<u>Thursday</u> . M. fair, wind SW, and day fair & pleasant. In the evening Mr David S Hoyt read to me a Lecture on Cometary worlds, from " <u>His Planetary and Stellar Worlds</u> of O.M. Mitchel Director of the Cincinnati Observatory 1 Vol. recently published at N. York
Mitchel's Lectures	}	The

Novr  
16

Come  
tary  
World }

Myst  
erious }

17

Depart  
ure  
of son  
& family }

for  
Ver  
genes }

The Lecture is an able exposition of the subject, and evinces much knowledge of the researches now making, and made, in Europe in the science of Astronomy. On the theory of a resisting medium in space, retarding the motion of comets in their orbits, Mr Mitchel expresses doubts and seems inclined to believe this retardation may be from other causes. On the rationale of the tails of comets, he gives the suggestions of Sir John Herchel, of a repulsive force in the sun capable of repelling mater of a certain gravity existing in comets. The subject is intricate and perhaps admits of no certain solution But, says Mr Mitchel, "as ambiguity predicted that the time would come when the comets would be traced in their career, then periods revealed and their orbits ascertained so we may confidently hope that at no very distant day, all the mysteries which hang around these chaotic worlds will be fully revealed, and a knowledge of their physical condition should reward the long study and deep research of the human mind."

Friday. m fair, wind West and the day clear, & cloudy towards night, At 10 o'clock AM my son, wife and their little Charles, took the rail road cars for Greenfield; thence to proceed via Bellows falls, to Vergennes, by stage. Parting with them produces sensations some what disturbing; but as the engagements of my son on the rail road, are important to him and his family, I submit to the deprivation without complaint. His employment is arduous, and requires close attention and unremitted action. Another year, he thinks, will be required to complete the road and put it in operation.

The

Novr 17		<p>The whole extent of the road from Burlington to Bellows falls is stated to be    miles, which at 20 thousand dollars per mile amounts of dollars; but this probably will not cover the expens of the bridges, engines, cars &amp;c.</p>
Bur lington & Rut land rail road	}	<p>If rail roads at this cost will afford profit to stockholders, and keep them in repair, I am mistaken in my calculations. On routes between great marts they may do this but to multiply them on <u>short routes</u> is unwise. A rail road from Boston to to Albany, or some other port on the great western road, may sustain itself, but another between the same places will prove a failure, and this the eagle eyed capitalists will foresee~</p>
Remarks on rail roads	}	<p>The zeal for rail roads has outstript the rules of prudence and moun tain barriers are now claimed but trifling impediments; and it is not uncommon to hear men talk of the case of <u>tunnel ing</u> four or five miles through elevated ridges of primitive rocks. But experience will at length show that rail roads are out of place in mountainous regions, except ing on routes parallel to the elevations.</p>
18		<p><u>Saturday</u> m. fair, wind N.E. and day very clear and pleasant. The chief topics for the two past weeks, has been the Presidential election and that of our State officers; and it is now Generally believed that Governor Briggs and</p>



Novr  
18

The  
Elec  
tions }

others of the Whig ticket, succeeded beyond expectation. From the strength of the Van Buren ticket in the choice of electors of the President, it was feared the state electors would be defeated but it appears that the Whigs of the State, have sustained their cause most nobly, and that the Van Buren effort was but an ignis fatuus which misted for a moment, while the democratic party was diminished to comparative pittance. This augers with the cause of liberty and order.

The election of General Taylor to the Presidency, it is believed, will stop the progress of vandalic conquest restore justice to our country check the pernicious war spirit which prevails among our young people from false notions of military glory, and show our demagogues, that their disorganizing schemes will not be embraced by a majority of the people, who have access to truth

19

Sunday. m fair, wind N.E. and day (afternoon) cloudy and air cool. indicating the approach of winter—a season in which the old hear the “call of years” and sensibly feel the decay of the vital functions, which once seemed to defy all vicissitudes of seasons.

20

Snow  
6 inch  
es }

Monday m cloudy, with snow which fell last night to the depth of 6 inches; wind N; the day continued clouded & a portion of it falling snow, and winter seems to have commenced. This is about 15 days earlier ~~than~~ than the commencement of the last winter (December 5<sup>th</sup>)

Novr  
21

Mitch  
els  
Lectures  
on as  
tronomy

Motion  
of the  
solar  
system

Its rev  
olution  
round  
a central  
point

Tuesday m fair, wind SW  
and the day continued  
Among the literary works lately  
come to hand, none have more  
deeply engaged by attention than  
“The Planetary and Stellar Worlds  
of Mr. Mitchel, Director of the  
Cincinati observatory. The work  
is comprised in 10 Lectures, with  
lescopic views. The last 4 are  
particularly interesting from the  
new matter they develop in relation  
to the Discovery of new Planets;  
the Cometary worlds, the Scale  
on which the Universe is brittle  
and the motions & Revolutions  
of the fixed stars.  
The 10<sup>th</sup> lecture claims to have  
shown the wonderful result  
“that the sun, attended by all of its  
planets, satellites & comets, is sweeping  
through space towards the star marked  
μ in the Constellation Hercules, with  
a distance equal to thirty three milli  
ons, three hundred & fifty thousand  
miles in every year.”  
The direction of the solar system  
had previously been pointed out  
by Sir William Herschell; but it was  
left to later astronomers to establish  
the fact; among whom the Lectures  
name the Russian astronomers  
Argclandor, Struve (& Peters)  
This motion of the solar system  
being established, and also that gravi  
tion extends throughout the stellar  
worlds, it became necessary to ascertain  
a point, or some [    ] central body  
round which the whole must re  
volve; and this has of late become

Novr  
21

Proba  
ble [ ]  
of this  
point }

a grand problem of astronomers.  
nor, according to Mr Mitchel have  
they been unsuccessful.~  
M. Maldhr, the director of the  
Dorpat observatory (in Russia)  
believing there must be a centre of  
gravity, as certainly as there is one  
in our solar system, has pursued  
the subject with apparent success.  
and his conclusion is that Alcyone  
the principal star in the group of  
the Pleides, now occupies the center  
of gravity, and is at present the sun  
about which the universe of stars  
composing our astral system are  
revolving. (See Lecture 10, page 314)

Approx  
imate  
time of  
Sun's  
revolu  
tion  
stated }

Of the time of our sun's revolution  
in this orbit, nothing certain can  
be known until the distance of Alcy  
one be determined; but from an ap  
proximate parallax of this star, derived  
from a comparison with others as  
curtained by Bissell & other astron  
omers within a few years, the time  
is stated at 18,200,000 years. This  
great luminary then, with all its plan  
ets, satellites and comets, will have com  
pleted one revolution around its grand  
centre in that time. Hence the question  
will present, whether the numerous  
nebula discovered, revolve about the  
same point, or each has its central  
point, like our astral system?

The subject is sublime, and shows  
the vast extent of the human mind  
when aided by mathematical investi  
gations, and discretion of the telescope.

22

Wednesday. m cloudy, but soon fair  
with NE wind; rest of day fair  
An extra Session of our General  
Court commences at Boston tomorrow for the  
choice of electors of President of the  
United States. This session is the  
effect of the wild Van Buren movement

Novr  
 23  
 My at  
 tention  
 turned  
 to astron  
 omy }

Thursday m. fair, wind N  
 and day generally fair  
 The perusal of Mitchel's Lectures  
 on Astronomy has turned my at  
 tention to that sublime science  
 for which I once had a con  
 siderable taste. Most of the old  
 astronomers confined themselves to the  
 solar system, in which they have  
 made great progress; but have  
 touched briefly on the stellar  
 worlds, which a want of  
 parallax [     ] prevented  
 them from penetrating into that  
 abyss.

Hershall's }  
 research  
 es }

Later }  
 Astron }  
 omers }

Astronom }  
 ical in }  
 struments }

The researches of Sir William Her  
 shel with his superb telescope  
 opened the path for future discover  
 ies, and in 1837 & 38 Bessel the  
 quiet astronomer of Koeningsburgh  
 determined the parallax of  
 the star 61 Cygni (or the Swan)  
 and the heretofore impossible gulf of  
 space was traversed and the dist  
 ance to the sphere of the fixed stars  
 measured. Astronomers are  
 now boldly plunging into  
 the unexplored region, and  
 handing out to the world re  
 condite facts, once thought  
 beyond the reach of human  
 effort. Whether astronomical  
 instruments will ever be carried  
 to greater perfection than those  
 we now possess, is doubtful; for  
 perfection can never be attained,  
 since the materials of which then  
 are constructed are variable from  
 different temperatures. All we  
 can

- Novr  
23 can anticipate is the correction of differences by taking means of the observations, a specimen of which we see in the methods of Borda. See Sir John Herschel's Astronomy Chap. 2. in which he treats upon the errors of astronomical instruments and the difficulty of constructing them. But if practical astronomy is retarded by want of perfection in instruments, one unerring probe is in the hands of man: I allude to the principles of mathematics, which carry conviction to the minds of all who understand them~
- 24 Friday m. partially cloudy, wind W; the day became cloudy and rain fell moderately. Since the fall of snow last week our rail road trains have suffered some irregularities in their movements. If this be the effect of a 6 inch snow, what would be that of one of 2 or 3 feet? Rail roads in countries liable to deep snows have appeared to me misplaced, as in Canada & on our northern states. Modes of clearing the roads are adapted, but where the snows are frequent & deep this is not easily performed; but if cleared, the road is very liable to be again covered by drifting snows. These difficulties should not be overlooked in the location & construction of rail roads
- Rail roads in snow countries }
- 25 Saturday. M. foggy, wind SW but clear before noon; day fair Our roads are now free from snow as also some of the hill sides~ The last intelligence of Europe still presents a gloomy aspect of affairs.

- Novr  
26      Sunday. M. cloudy, wind W  
fair before sun set.  
In the evening my friend D.S.  
Hoyt favored me with the reading  
of one of Mitchel's astronomical  
lectures, in which the author traces  
the process of Copernicus in deter-  
mining the true structure of the star  
system, and that of Kepler in de-  
veloping the laws of planetary  
movements in elliptical orbits.  
These discoveries removed many of  
the difficulties that had embarrassed  
astronomers, and the grand discovery  
of universal gravitation only, re-  
mained to complete the machine  
and this was reserved for Newton.
- 27      Monday m. cloudy, but soon fair  
and win W. day fair.
- 28      Tuesday m. fair, wind SW  
P.M. thin overspreading clouds.  
The choice of Electors for President  
at the special session of our Gen. Court  
at Boston last week, stood as fol-  
lows:
- |              |     |   |
|--------------|-----|---|
| Whig ticket  | 196 | }      Hence 196-37+65<br>=94 majority of<br>Whigs for Taylor |
| Free soil do | 37  |   |
| Cass ticket  | 65  |   |
| total        | 298 |   |
- 29      Wednesday m. fair, wind S.W.  
and the day fair & pleasant  
The success of the Taylor ticket  
will be a damper to the plans of  
the democratic party, who in selecting  
Gen. Cass had in view further con-  
quests of territory & the carrying out  
the schemes of Mr. Polk. The Island  
of Cuba was the next object, and  
then, the British provinces in N & NE  
of the United States. Four years  
postponement of their benevolent plans  
will be ill [     ] by the party.  
and

Novr  
29

and some of Mr Polk's new  
fledged generals may be out of employment  
and forgotten, and the favorable time  
lost while Europe is in a revolu  
tionary state. In the defeat of  
Gen. Cass, the leaders of our demo  
cracy will see their plans of con  
quest frustrated, unless they can  
dupe the free soil party to join their  
ranks, which is not a very im  
prable issue, after giving their  
votes for a man of the character of  
Martin Van Buren. But should  
this scheme prove unsuccessful, let not  
Gen. Taylor flatter himself that the  
White House will prove a bed of down  
for howver pure may be his admin  
istration, he will not escape the  
vituperations heaped upon our  
great patriot George Washington in the  
second term of his administration, "Where  
(to use his own words as expressed in a  
letter to Mr Jefferson), every act of  
my administration should be tor  
tured, and the grossest end must  
insidious misrepresentations of them  
be made, by giving one side only  
of a subject, and that too in such  
exaggerated and indecent terms as could  
scarcely be applied to a Nero—to a  
notorious defaulter—or even to a  
common pick-pocket."~

But in in a country where uni  
versal suffrage is the basis of the gov  
ernment, and the press is open to  
the slanders of corrupt men, the  
mass of the people, though honest  
themselves, may be deceived and led  
on to the greatest excesses under the  
impression that they are exercising  
the rights and liberties of freedom. As  
a specimen of their excesses, "the reign  
of terror" in France under Robespierre  
[ ] be cited.

- Novr 30 Thursday m foggy, but soon fair  
wind S.W; fair day.  
At the invitation of Col. Bryant I  
went to S Deerfield to spend thanks  
giving day; ~~m~~ fair & most of the  
day.
- December 1 Friday m. fair, wind westerly;  
stayed at Col. Bryants.
- visit to South Deerfield } 2 Saturday m rainy, wind S.  
and a rainy day, stayed in Quarters  
3 Sunday m. fair, wind W, and  
fair weather, returned home about  
1 PM with Col. Bryant & part  
of his family a clear day.
- Letter from my friend } Recd. a Letter from Arthurs family  
announcing their safe return to Vergennes  
and their intended movement to  
Burlington where they are to spend  
the winter~  
The Valley of S. Deerfield is on the  
increase & it now present a handsom  
appearance; the population mostly  
from various parts of the country pre  
sent varieties of character, but  
generally of the New-England sort
- 4 Monday m. fair, wind NW  
but P.M cloudy—sun set fair  
Congress Session at Washington  
commences this day.  
We hear of the death of Mrs Nancy  
Hoyt widow of the late Ebenezer Hoyt  
She died at her sons house at Athol  
and her corps is brought here for  
internment in the burying ground  
near the Baptist Church in Wisdom  
; her age 73 years.
- Death of Mrs Nancy Hoyt }



December  
5

Reflec  
tions  
on the  
Mexican  
War

Tuesday m cloudy,  
Wind NE; the day cloudy with some rain  
Three months from this time, will  
terminate President Polk's term of mis  
rule and the Government will pass  
into new hands, and no patriot  
will regret the change, if the  
government returns to the prin  
ciples of justice and the true  
interests of the people. In selecting  
Mr. Polk for the Presidency, the ob  
ject was clearly foreseen by the dis  
cerning part of community: viz the conquest  
of the northern part of Mexico; but  
whether this will prove a valua  
ble acquisition to the United States, is  
yet to be seen. But the work of con  
quest is not completed. Gen. Cass  
was to take the White House, and  
complete the business; not only in  
south but in the north & north  
east. His disappointment howe  
ever may retard the benevolent bu  
siness for years; but democracy  
will not abandon their plans;  
N America, at least must be brought  
under one head, and the Governments  
of Europe taught that long possession  
confers no right to territory  
when found convenient for a contig  
us nation to occupy it.

Mr  
Polk's  
olive  
branch

In his invasions of Mexico Mr  
Polk has told us that his armies  
have carried the olive branch in  
their van: An olive branch indeed!  
and such as was borne by the hords  
of Attila, when he invaded the  
Roman Empire~ In his closing message  
to Congress, Mr Polk will probably attempt  
to gloss over his conduct; but it is much too  
late to claim an honorable course

Decembr 6	<u>Wednesday</u> m. cloudy, with rain; wind N.E. the day continued cloudy & wet
7	<u>Thursday</u> m. cloudy, wind NE and the day continued the same
Colmans agricul tural Reports	I have just received (on my Sons subscription) the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Reports on European Agriculture and Rural Economy, by Henry Colman
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	The work is composed in 2 Vols 8 vols and embraces much useful matter for the agriculturist. The facts were collected by the author during a residence of several years, in England & other parts of Europe, from personal observations, and printed in London and Boston in numbers as they were ready for the press, and is of a miscellaneous character, rather than a systematic treatise; but perhaps not the less useful from this arrangement.
Re marks on agri cultural works	Mr Colman has now completed his task & returned to this country; and none, I think, will say his visit to Europe [ ] his researches and observations will be useless to his country, or to Europe to which he extended his researches.~ Books on Architecture <sup>19</sup> have been multiplied to a considerable extent within a few years past, and it is a favorable circumstance that men of science are turning their attention to the subject. In perusing their works we perceive that the great desideration is the due application of manures, and the draining of water from wet soils. Without these processes the products of soils will be small and the cultivator ill paid for his labor.

---

<sup>19</sup> He likely means agriculture

December  
7

Manure  
the  
great  
desider  
ation

In new countries where forests have existed for centuries, the surface soil becomes a mass of manure and requires no additional food for plants for several years, but at length this vegetable matter becomes extinct and manures must be resorted to. Hence Agriculture in old countries becomes of more importance than in new soils however composed can never become permanently fertile without a portion of vegetable or animal matter in a state of decomposition. To supply this food is the great object of Agriculture. Other manures of a chemical character are now employed; but these in General may be considered as stimulants to the vegetable & animal matter found in soils, and must at length exhaust the fertility of soils without a supply of real manures

8

Friday m cloudy, wind SW, and the day

Presi  
dent  
Everetts  
resigna  
tion

We learn from the papers that Edward Everett President of the University at Cambridge, has resigned his office on account of declining health. To be deprived of the extensive learning of this Gentleman is a misfortune which the public will sensibly feel. The rank our university has attained, must not be lowered; and among our literary & scientific men we doubt not that some may be found competent to the duties of President; but who will be the successor Mr Everett, we cannot conjecture.

December 9 Electoral College of Mass	}	<p><u>Saturday</u> M. fair, wind N. PM became cloudy and so remained until towards sun set On the 6<sup>th</sup> instant the Electoral Col lege of Massachusetts met at Boston and cast their 12 votes for General Zachary Taylor for President of the United States. and the same vote for Millard Fillmore Vice President. The success of the Whig ticket is no longer doubtful. One more than the Executor power is to be lodged in the hands of a man who looks to the good of the country instead of support of a party; and we trust the democratic spirit for conquest will be allayed for at least for the term of four years. and in the mean time <u>Cuba and</u> <u>the Canadas</u> remain under their respective governments.</p>
10  Dark cloudy weather embar rass my reading	}  }	<p><u>Sunday</u> m cloudy, wind NE; the day continued cloudy &amp; in the afternoon considerable rain, and a dense fog rested on the mountains. During such weather I am deprived of the pleasure of reading, which is no small reduction of my enjoyment I early imbibed a taste for reading but from a want of books, was unable to gratify it to much extent An extensive library in the county towns, at that time, was rare. But since my access to books, I think I may say, that not a day, and scarcely an hour has passed when I was at leisure and retired from company, in which I have not indulged in</p>
my long [   ] of	} }	

December  
10

persuing works on all subjects  
I thought important for improve  
ment; and thanks to the good  
ness of my eyes, until within two  
or three years past, I have never  
been denied that enjoyment.

My  
method  
of pe  
rus  
al

My method has been to examine  
all works, which fell into my hands  
and & to give such as I found res  
pectable, a thorough perusal at the  
same time reserving the right to  
contest them, when I deemed them er  
roneous. The works which I have  
preferred are those of a scientific character  
having for their foundation the exact  
sciences; but history, geography, voyage  
and travels, have always been held in  
high estimation, as important branches  
of knowledge. Other works have  
claimed my attention, among which  
I may mention Poetry, a peculiar compo  
sition, in which I claim no skill,  
but often read with delight.

Favor  
ite Au  
thors

With works of imagination, which  
we term novels & romances, I must  
say, I have seldom been charmed.  
nor have found time to peruse.  
In general they show little else  
than the ingenuity of the writers  
and are destitute of useful lessons  
for enquiring minds.

11

Monday M. fair, wind W.

PM became cloudy, and so held  
till sunset, but the air moder  
ate for the season~

Mr  
Polks  
mes  
sage

Our papers contain President  
Polk's message to Congress, occupying  
twelve columns of an ordinary  
news-paper. Taking it be granted

Decembr  
11  
Presi  
dents  
message

that the war with Mexico was just and necessary on our part he [ ] [ ] its glory by the extent of his conquests, keeping his outrages invasion of the country and his unconstitutional strides at its commencement, out of view. In this he acts with prudence since no apology he could present to the people would remove the impression of injustice he committed at the outset, in ordering Gen. Taylor from the Nueces to the Rio Grand the direct purpose of provoking hostility on the part of Mexico. If his plan of conquest was then concealed from the public eye, every member of his cabinet will understand it, as well as his advisors in all parts of the United States; and after the conquest of the city of Mexico by Gen. Scott, there were among Mr Polks friends, men who urged the conquest of the whole of Mexico to be added to the original plan and the prosecution of the war until this object was effected. But the expense of the war was a [ ] er: the reflecting part of the people now began to look to the causes of the war, and it was at once perceived that it was founded on injustice and a spirit of conquest, no better than vandalic robbery. They checked the operations of Mr Polk & his clan, and they [ ] considered that the Rio Grand, and the southern lines of New Mexico & north California should be the southern boundary of our conquests. A forced treaty was agreed on, but to cover the turpitude of the acquisition a [ ] indemnity

Decemr. 11	was granted to Mexico, to be paid in installments, provided she is duly submissive to our future course. It now remains for Mr Polk and his copse to reconcile these proceedings with the principles of justice & human ity, and we look in vain for this in his long message to Congress.
Condi tion of Mexico	Mexico is in fact a conquered nation and if permitted to remain inde pendant, she must submit to our caprice without complaint or re monstrance. She may be allowed to send to our Court resident mini sters, <u>pro forma</u> ; but in case of another misunderstanding between the two nations what but the most obsequious language of his ministerial agents will be admitted; and remonstrance for wrongs is out of the question.
12	<u>Tuesday</u> M cloudy, wind W, and so continued through the day. We learn that a vessel arrived at New York last week, from Hav ore in France with several cases of the Cholera on board. As the disease is supposed <u>non-conta geous</u> , hopes are entertained that it will not extend beyond Staten Island where the patients are confined; But until more is known of the causes <del>of the disease</del> and progress of the disease, little reliance can be placed on theoretical opin ions. The cause of the disease is in volved in mystery and its singular progress equally so; and what will be its extent and fatality in this country we know not,
Cole ra at N. York	

December		<u>Wednesday</u> m. partially fair, but
13		soon cloudy, & wind N. and
Letter	}	the day cloudy & some sun seen
to my		Wrote to my friends at Burlington
son &		Vermont where they have taken [    ]
wife	}	for the winter, at the northern
14		terminam of the rail road.
		<u>Thursday</u> . M. cloudy, wind N.
		last nigh a sprinkling of snow.
The	}	The day continued cloudy &
weath		fog rested on the mountains
er		In this state of the atmosphere
		I notice that the railroad Engineers
		give off a more dense body of
Meteor	}	smoke than in clear weath
ological		er. Is this owing to a dimin
consid		ued atmosphere pressure, which
erations	}	at the same time, prevents the
		ascension of the aqueous vapor
		During this state of the atmosphere
		snow, I believe, rarely falls.
		The process of nature in the
		formation of clouds, rain, hail and
		snow, may not be clearly un
		derstood; but it is believed
		that by the laws of evaporation
		condensation & crystalline conge
		lation, they may be <u>explained</u>
		with some degree of certainty,
		yet in all, it is probable that
		<u>electricity</u> has some agency
		as well as the laws of Chemical
		composition.
15		<u>Friday</u> . m. cloudy, wind South
		and the day became fair afternoon
		The appearance of a bright sun
		after so long, observation is pleas
		ing and invigorating to all
		[——] <del>animal</del>
		spirits.



December	<u>Saturday</u> M. the sun
16	seen, but soon shrouded by thick clouds & the wind S the day continued the same. We are now entirely free from snow, and the weather is moderate for the season, and there is little, or no, frost in the ground~
17	<u>Sunday</u> . M. fair wind West and the day clear and & very pleas ant. Last night some rain fell Continuing the perusal of Mr <u>Buckingham's Travels</u> in America I find in the 2d Vol. of his last series notices of Antiquities found in the Ohio regions, indicating a Jewish and an Egyptian origin. Mr B. relies on <u>Preist's American</u> <u>antiquities</u> , a work I have read, but which, to say the least, I have considered of doubt ful authority.
Buck ingham Travels }	
Nature of Anti quities }	That a race of men far more improved, than the present In dians once inhabited this region there can be little or no doubt. But that the Jews or Egyptians should have found their way to this Continent, and penetrated to the Ohio is not easily conceived though Mr Preist thinks he has pointed out the way. The work of Messers <u>Squires &amp; Davis</u> , just published, it is hoped will throw light on the subject, if not solve the problem which has perplexed antiquarians. Mr Preist's account of the <u>Jewish phylacteries</u> said to be found at Rusfield [     ] too much of the marvelous to obtain belief
Mr Preists work }	

- Decr  
17
- Mum  
mies }  
of Ken  
tucky }
- 18
- Munn's }  
Scientif  
ic Amer  
ican }
- The discovery of a Cave of Mum  
mies, near Lexington in Kentucky  
in 1775, as related by Mr Preist, if  
we admit the fact, appears a  
proof that the Egyptian art of  
embalming, had, by some means,  
reached this country; but it  
appears he obtained his account  
from the traveler Ash, whose Book  
has generally been considered a  
Romance. See Buckingham Chap. 22, Vol. 2d.  
(3d Series) for further particulars.
- Monday. M. fair, wind SW and  
day fair, with agreeable air
- The Scientific American: This  
is a weekly paper published at the  
City of New-York by \_\_\_\_ Munn & Co.  
and I think is conducted with  
considerable ability. Its design is to  
promote the mechanic Arts: but  
it often treats of the higher branch  
es of science; and notices the im  
provements now making in the civ  
ilized world. A publication of  
this hence requires a man of intel  
ligence & close application, and Mr  
Munn seem to be competent to the  
task. If we now & then see Uto  
pian schemes introduced, they are  
generally from those who have  
limited their studies to a small cir  
cle; but these generally receive a check  
from the pen of the editor.
- Among our mechanical men of  
limited study, we often find those  
who are competent of their supposed  
discoveries & improvements, yet are  
not aware that they are laboring on  
plans already known. Hence  
the patent office at Washington, is  
infested by applicants for patents  
who for the first time learn that they  
have made no new discovery,
- Hence

- Decr  
18 Hence it may be remarked, the task resting on the hands of the Superintendent of that office, is intricate and difficult, and requires an extensive knowledge of the circle of arts and sciences, rarely found in one individual. A complete list of all the patents granted by this office, would present articles from improved mouse traps to the complicated machinery of steam ships.
- 19 Tuesday m cloudy with fog, and wind SW and day fair but many broken clouds.
- 20 Wednesday m cloudy, and NE and the day cloudy
- 21 Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE; last night a sprinkling of snow: the day continued cloudy with a little fall of snow. In the evening the snow fell pretty freely in [    ] [    ] flakes.
- 22 Friday m Cloudy with snow fall, and NE wind- Snow about 6 inches, and more at night. The sun having reached the southern tropical our days are at the shortest duration, and the sun's Dist = our Lat. + Declination. From this time to the vernal equinox we may look for winter weather.
- 23 Saturday m. fair wind NE snow about 12 inches in depth' and day clear. Sleighs are now substituted for wheel carriages and winter assumes its reign, but the rivers continue open  
The day affording sufficient light for my injured eyes, I accompanied Mr Buckingham

Decr  
23  
Buck  
ing }  
ham }

Buckingham from St Louis up the  
Mississippi to the rapids of De Moines  
The Steam boat in which embarked  
was to ascend to the falls of St Anthony  
but the water being low the boat was  
compelled to return to St Louis. Mr  
B. gives an interesting description of  
the country on each of the riv  
er, with the settlements on its banks  
The waters of the Mississippi above  
the junction of the Missouri are repre  
sented pure & wholesome and the coun  
try healthy; and within a few years  
will probably present many hand  
some & populous towns.  
Embarking at St Louis Mr. B pro  
ceeds on the river to the mouth of  
the Illinois, thence up that river to  
Ottawa and thence in a stage coach  
to Chicago, passing several extensive  
prairies of the richest soil both on  
the Illinois & on the canal route; but  
the banks of that river are represented  
as rather unfavorable to health. Mount  
Joliette, on the latter, he thinks is an  
artificial work, of which I think there  
is some doubts. See Chap. 13 & 14 vol. 3d.

24 Sunday m cloudy with some snow  
and wind N.; last night very cold  
the continued cloudy with snow  
and some fine hail & cold air  
Thermometer in the mor 3° below zero

25 Monday m. cloudy, wind North  
cloudy and foggy, with some  
rain. The occurrence of rain  
immediately after one or two days  
of intense cold air, presents a  
problem for meteorologists; but per  
haps more inexplicable the  
[    ] other atmospherical phenomena  
and

- Decr  
25 And until we are more  
thoroughly acquainted with atmos  
pheric laws, we may in vain at  
tempt to explain the phenomena  
which the atmosphere exhibits.
- 26 Tuesday M partially fair,  
wind NW brisk last night  
The day mostly fair & cold
- Buck  
ing }  
ham }  
con }  
clud }  
ed }
- Finished the perusal of the 3 or  
last Vols of Buckingham's Travels  
in the U States, which he closes on  
his departure from Niaga to Toronto  
in Upper Canada. The work is  
interesting, & on the whole instructing  
In his histories of the places he visit  
ed, he embraces much that is  
known to one already acquainted  
with history of our Country But  
repetitions of this kind do not lessen  
the value of the work, since to many  
they will be new. At the close of  
the 3 Vol. he indirectly promises a set  
on the Canadas & other British provin  
ces in America, which I believe he  
has preformed, making 9 in the whole  
The first three I have not met with  
No European, it is believed, has  
extended his travels so widely in the  
United States as Mr Buckingham;  
and their publication will afford  
the people of Europe, a vast mass  
of information concerning our Country  
and probably increase the tide  
of emigration from that quarter  
of the world, where a large por  
tion of human beings subsist on  
ly by manual labor.
- 27 Wednesday m cloudy, wind NE;  
a day cloudy and snow fell  
the after part of it air cold.

Decr  
27

Ancient  
Garden  
beds  
in Mich  
igan }

In Vol 3d, Chap 19, page 414 of  
Buckingham's Travels we have account  
of Ancient Garden beds, so called  
found in the state of Michigan.

Mr. B takes his description from a  
Mr Blois, historian of the State, who  
says: The ancient Garden beds  
are found near St Joseph's and Kal  
amazoo rivers: They exist in some  
of the prairies and live oak plains in  
the richest soils, and cover from 20  
to 100 acres, and some a much larger  
extent. Some are laid out in ~~different~~  
~~directions and~~ rectilinear & curve, [ ]  
[ ] figures, either distinct or combined  
scalloped work, with alleys between  
and apparently ample walks or ave  
nues leading in different directions, dis  
playing a taste that would not describe  
it a modern pleasure garden.

The Gardens, Mr Blois says, coincidently  
bear the stamp of antiquity & civilization  
of ambiguity, as they are often found  
overgrown with live-oaks of an age  
precluding their construction within the  
last two centuries, at least; besides the Indi  
ans belonging to the ancient peninsular  
tribes, to all interrogatives on the sub  
ject, betray the same ignorance of their  
origin and history, as they do of the  
mounds & forts. Of the existence of these  
gardens, I was not aware until I read  
Mr. Buckingham's travels; and if the  
accounts can be relied on as correct, they  
furnish additional evidence that a race  
of people far advanced of the present In  
dians, once inhabited our western country.

28

Thursday. m fair, wind West  
day, fair & cold

In the cours of our journal we  
have often hinted at the plan of  
democracy

Decr 28		democracy for obtaining possession of the Island of Cuba, and that this was to follow the conquest of of Northern Mexico. We entertained no doubt. By the proceedings of Congress, we now see that this plan has been in operation by Mr Polk. In the Congress Senate a motion has been made for calling upon the President for information concerning correspondence had with the government of Spain for the <u>purchase</u> of the Island of Cuba.
Nego tiation with Spain for the Island of Cuba	}	A <u>purchase</u> of the Island would hardly meet the wishes of democracy since possession may be obtained by annexation <u>ala mode de Texas</u> , with the aid of <u>volunteers</u> . A sale of the Island might be a wise step for Spain since she is sure to part with it either by purchase or invasion, by us: The negotiation with Spain was intended as a preparatory for Gen. Cass had he been elected to the Presidency. but whether Gen. Taylor will continue the scheme we are to see. But of one thing we may be sure: Viz: that democracy will never rest until the annexation is accomplished.
29		<u>Friday.</u> m. cloudy with some snow the wind NE; & cold air. the day the same. The weather is now of the usual temperature of winter and the snow all good depth for sleighing, & sledding of wood; but our river now partly bridged with ice of course we have no access to the wood on our western hills and our field has become expensive land and increases in value as population increases.

Decr  
29  
Fuel  
& La  
bor }

In New England no ample coal  
[    ] are found, and it becomes  
a question of importance, by what  
means poverty will find a  
supply of wood for fuel and tim  
ber for building but brick & stone  
be substituted for the latter, still there  
be a deficiency of timber as is seen  
in all old countries. In England  
the inexhaustible coal field supply  
the people with fuel; but in  
France according to Mr Colmans  
last agriculture report, the fuel  
generally used is wood or charcoal  
though there are large deposits  
of mineral coal. But much atten  
tion is paid to planting forests and  
preserving and cherishing such  
as already exist, and the entering  
of the timber is under laws for pre  
serving it.

30      Saturday M cloudy, with some snow  
and wind NE; the sun seen  
at noon, but generally cloudy,  
and cold, but the evening fair.  
Snow is now of considerable depth  
(say 15 inches) and winter reigns  
with vigor; but with close rooms  
good stoves & plenty of fuel we  
are comfortable; wood however  
has become an expensive article, about  
3 dollars per cord, one more when  
sawed & stored in our wood shed.

31      Sunday. M fair, wind West & cold  
the day fair until towards sun set.  
My } This day commences my 84<sup>th</sup> year  
birth } and finds me a decrepit old man  
day } with impaired hearing and sight, but  
my health otherwise is tolerably good.  
The failure of my eye sight is the greatest  
inconvenience I experience. With bright  
light I can still read, but in the evening  
I am denied that enjoyment, which  
is no small depreciation. As to  
my



Decr  
31  
Close  
of 1848

my memory, I think I may, say my recollection of old events, remain pretty clear: and as I may also say, they remain nearly as good as in my younger days, though perhaps less rapid. The mechanical philosophy we hear of many improvement and doubtless some are really such; but in many instances, they are the fruits of an occult philosophy, which has no foundation in the law of natures. and this kind of philosophy seems to engage many young men who would repudiate all that has been known bearing the stamp of antiquity; evidently the result of a limited knowledge of the principles of mathematical philosophy.

During the past year the political horizon of Europe, has been shrouded with ominous clouds, and whether the people of that region will find their condition ameliorated by revolutions of their governments, is very doubtful. The truth is a portion of the people are striving for new governments, who know not how to govern themselves; and in our country, when liberty is almost without restraint, too many are found of this deception.

At the close of the day, my excellent friend L.B. Lincoln Esqr. handed me the following lines: "To the Hon. E. Hoyt, on his Natal day  
My honored friend, I welcome thee,  
With mind so clear at Eighty three;  
May Heav'n its soothing blessings pour  
And gently lead to Eighty four.  
And when the thread of life is spun  
And you and I our work ~~course~~ have done  
O May we then hold concerns sweet  
In friendships, pure, science retreat."

Deerfield Decr } With much respect  
31<sup>st</sup> 1848 } yours L.B. Lincoln.

1849

Jany

1

Intro }  
uctory }  
remark }

Sketch-Book No 23 from Janu  
ary 1<sup>st</sup> 1849 to

---

Monday m partially fair, wind North  
and the day generally cloudy  
& cold throughout.

In continuing my Journal  
and scraps, I am aware that  
my impaired sight will render  
it difficult to write intelligently  
but daily notations have become  
so habitual that were I to sus  
pend it, I should be like a  
ship at sea, which kept no  
account of its progress and daily  
position. I therefore shall continue  
scribbling so long as health permits  
me I find it amusing.

My mode of noticing the weather  
is brief & without a thermometer  
barometer or hygrometer, and the  
winds are generally noticed about 10  
o'clock AM. In noticing the tempera  
ture by the thermometer, three periods  
at least, of the day are necessary-Viz  
near sun rise, noon, & sun set. but  
to be stinted to these periods would  
be a task; and besides the rising  
sun generally finds me in ~~my~~  
my night couch. The pressure of  
the atmosphere being less variable re  
quires less critical observations.  
For my occasional scraps it is  
hoped that less will be found  
for criticism, than in Mr Polk's  
wild administration; but the  
perturbation in Europe it is  
probable will furnish materials for  
many remarks; and what will  
be the result of these movement none  
can predict.

We

Jany

1

We hope however, that while the people are striving for liberty, they will not forget its fundamental principles, and whether the people of Europe are prepared for free governments is extremely doubtful~

In our remarks on events we shall endeavor to confine ourselves to objects of utility, reserving the liberty to animadvert upon schemes and projects that are evidently utopian, too many of which are seen in our news-papers, tending to bewilder rather than instruct. We now enter upon 1849; and may it be a happy new year" to all.

2

Tuesday. m. fair, wind West & cold air; the day the Same.

Death  
of T.  
Harvey  
& wife

By a Troy paper we learn that Timothy Harvey & his wife my connections, both died on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December last, at the City of Troy; he aged 73 & she 78: the last sister to my wife. They have left sons and daughters; one of whom, William a missionary clergyman, died at Bombay in Hindustan, several years ago. The death of a man & wife on the same day is singular.

Progress  
of Colera

The Cholera we learn, is raging at New-Orleans, & advancing up the Mississippi, but at New-York it is mostly confined to Staten Island. In the west of Europe, it seems not to have prevailed so extensively as was anticipated

3

Wednesday M. fair & cold, wind N and the day fair & cold. Our Gen. Court assembles this day at Boston. The

Jany  
3

The annual assemblage of this body may be a wise provision of the Constitution, since it affords opportunity for the repeal of the old & enact of new laws, which a change of circumstances may require but at the same time there is danger of multiplying them to an unnecessary extent; The statute laws of a country should be carefully framed, duly regarded, & as few as possible. In the present session it is hoped a spirit of unanimity will prevail and party controls be allayed.

4

Thursday. M. fair, wind West & cold; the day cloudy before sun set.

Hall's  
Paleo  
ontology  
of New  
York }

Through the continued kindness of my friend, L.B. Lincoln, I am favored with the perusal of James Hall's Paleontology of New York a superb 4 to Vol. recently printed at Albany, with 90 elegant plates This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of a series of Vols. which are to follow, as new matter is collected by the author. Mr Hall evinces much research & knowledge of his subjects. "The work is published expressly for the benefit of the people of the State of New York." But the author, like many other late scientific writers, seems to have forgotten that his readers are Americans, and not Greeks or Romans. I am aware of the importance of Classification of the numerous objects in Natural History; but my wonder is excited when I find in a work, written for the American people terms borrowed wholly from the dead languages. Is it a jest that the English language is so barren to afford appropriate

[     ]

Jan

4

His

[ ] }  
ogy

[ ]? If so, let us abandon  
it, and substitute one more  
perfect.

The present mode of treating some  
of the branches of natural history is  
a mere Babel confusion of words  
entirely unintelligible to the Eng  
lish scholar who looks to the  
properties and uses of things in  
stead of their names.

If the study of the dead lan  
gauges has a tendency to promote  
this mode of writing, then its ad  
vantages are far from being so  
great as is pretended; and indeed  
if science is to be thus [ ]  
as a foreign technology it will soon  
become locked up in [ ]  
retirement unapproachable to the  
people at large. Mr Hall's work  
is valuable on many accounts, but  
we regret that he has so closely ad  
head to the pedantic mode, which must  
abate its usefulness. A classification  
from the English language, would  
add much to its value~

5

French }  
election }  
of Pre }  
sident }

Friday m cloudy with some snow,  
and wind NW; at noon fair & so  
continued through the day  
By the last accounts from Europe  
we learn the Louis Bonaparte has  
been elected President, (or Emperor)  
of France, by the people. To point  
to any services this man has  
[ ] the French nation is imposs  
ible, but the name of Bonaparte is  
a charm to the people and hence  
it is clear, they are not ready for  
a republican government the lead  
ers of the revolution it is believed, had no  
anticipation of this event. The

Jany 5 Re marks	
6  The weath er	<p>The French nation has yet to learn that talent is no guaranty to promotion in a Government based on universal suffrage. Ambition of the fame of <u>Napoleon</u>, this family living may involve Europe in a grand war of which our nation may partake, should this be the result of the French movement no cause for congratulating the people on the progress they have made towards genuine liberty, would be found</p>
6  The weath er	<p><u>Saturday</u>. m. cloudy, but the sun soon out; wind West &amp; cold: but most of the day proved cloudy. The snow is now said to be about 2 feet in depth, and the temperature bears something of the character of our old winter seasons, but with less violent winds.</p>
7  Animal heat	<p><u>Sunday</u> m. fair, wind N.E. and the day clear &amp; rather warmer than yesterday. Yet still cold While we are thus enveloped in a cold atmosphere which congeals water and binds inanimate substances in frost, our bodies in health still retain a temperature not much if any less than in the warmest summer weather. What a {—} {—} wonderful provision of nature [ ] the wisdom and goodness of the Creator. Physiologists may attempt to explain this process by the laws of animal life; but still the question remains <u>What power enacted these laws?</u> so essential to animal existence?</p>
8	<p><u>Monday</u> m. cloudy, thermometer <math>\frac{0}{8}</math> and wind NE The day continued generally cloudy &amp; very cold, and laid a heavy tax on our fuel.</p>

Jany  
8  
Cold }  
Day }

To my neighbors I am indebted for  
the morning observations of their ther-  
mometers: Dr. Williams  $\frac{0}{8}$ ; Ehm

Williams  $\frac{0}{10}$ ; Postmaster William  $\frac{0}{10}$

David S Hoyt  $\frac{0}{9}$

Mean of the above  $\frac{0}{9}$

The day, was severely cold and  
at sun set the wind had changed  
to the SW, diametrically opposite to  
the morning observation. Querie: the  
cause of the change in so cold an  
atmosphere, and therefore heavier  
than the southern air?

In the Evening received a letter from my  
friends at Burlington, dated Jany 2d  
Arthur surveying a railroad to  
St Albans to Burlington.

9

Tuesday m. fair, wind North

The day being generally clear, the  
suns rays softened the air in some  
degree. But as my Protectors were  
abroad on a call of business, and

A sol-  
itary }  
day }

not one of my friends gave me  
a call, the day was solitary and  
I was left to my own resources of amuse-  
ment. If at any time I am infested  
with the French ennui, it is in  
the long winter evenings when  
my eyes refuse me the pleasure of  
reading, and my friends omit  
their calls. I would not however  
tax my friends with remissness, for  
they may find amusements far dif-  
ferent from my own, & with which I  
have no right to interfere

- Jany  
10      Wednesday m. fair, wind North  
and cold air, the day clear  
This is the eighth day of the Session  
of our General Court, and I am still to  
learn whether Gov. Briggs has been re  
elected by the people! Amidst rail  
roads & telegraphs, this is singular.
- Death }  
of Mrs }  
Catlin }      The Widow Catlin, our oppo  
site neighbor, died at 2 o'clock PM  
aged 86 years, one of our eldest  
inhabitants.~  
The temperature of the day it  
is said, is nearly as low as that of  
last Monday last which was a cloudy  
day.~
- 11      Thursday m. fair, very cold, and  
wind North; two thermometer  $\frac{0}{10}$  in  
exact coincidence. The day contin  
ued clear and cold.
- Am }  
auro }  
sis }  
a dis }  
ease of }  
the eye }
- Looking over a late vocabulary  
I find the term Amaurosis  
(Greek of course) signifying a disease  
of the eye, con[s]isting in a general  
dimness of vision, and caused by  
defects in the power of the retina.  
This, I think, is a good description  
of the disease of my eyes; for I  
find magnifyers of very little  
service : and indeed they render  
letters of the alphabet more ob  
scure. Course point I read without  
glasses, but all kinds are obscure  
in dull light ; nor do magni  
fyers afford much aid; for while  
the letters are enlarged, the height  
is dispersed
- 12      Friday. m. fair wind NE & very cold  
the day fair & cold. The low temper  
ature reminds us of the old winters  
[   ] [   ] years ago.



Jany  
 12  
 winter }  
 of 1780 }

13  
 14  
 A }  
 rain }

The cold winter of 1780 is remembered  
 when our revolutionary Army un  
 der General Washington, kept their  
 field, in New Jersey either in huts  
 or tents, while the snow was 4  
 feet in depth, and part of Long  
 Island sound was covered with  
 ice, in the vicinity of New-York City  
Saturday m. fair, wind SW  
 and cold air-: the day became  
 cloudy & so continued  
 The past week has been severely  
 cold and unfavorable to old people.  
 and I fear my friends at Burling  
 ton, about 2 degrees north of us,  
 will find it more intense. The  
 construction of rail-roads in such  
 weather must necessarily be slow  
 and tedious.  
 During severe cold weather I  
 cannot wholly divest myself ap  
 prehensions that our domestic ani  
 mals suffer, though aware that  
 nature has fitted their condi  
 tions to their circumstances.  
 “Know nature’s children all divided her care;  
 The fur that warms a monarck, warmed a bear.”<sup>20</sup>  
Sunday m partially fair, wind  
 SW; last night a brisk rain  
 the day fair & cloudy  
 This change of temperature at this season  
 is not unfrequent, after a series of intense  
 cold weather: and here a question  
 presents to the meteorologist Viz: Why  
 the light southern air flows to the  
 north against the dense air of  
 higher latitudes? Would a gyratory  
 motion of the atmosphere explain the phe  
 nomena?

<sup>20</sup> Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle III.

Jany 15	<u>Monday</u> m cloudy, with some snow; wind <u>North</u> and the day cloudy, with slight rain which congealed as it fell.																						
Votes for Gove rnor }	<p>We have at length received an official account of the votes for Governor as cast in November last.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Whole number of votes</td><td>124,055</td></tr> <tr> <td>Necessary for a choice</td><td>62,028</td></tr> <tr> <td>George N Briggs had</td><td>61,640</td></tr> <tr> <td>Stephen C Phillips</td><td>36,011</td></tr> <tr> <td>Caleb Cushing</td><td>25,323</td></tr> <tr> <td>Frederick Robinson</td><td>473</td></tr> <tr> <td>All others</td><td><u>606</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Votes for Lt Governor</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>John Read had</td><td>61,361</td></tr> <tr> <td>John Mills</td><td>35,801</td></tr> <tr> <td>Henry W. Cushman</td><td><u>26,670</u></td></tr> </table>	Whole number of votes	124,055	Necessary for a choice	62,028	George N Briggs had	61,640	Stephen C Phillips	36,011	Caleb Cushing	25,323	Frederick Robinson	473	All others	<u>606</u>	Votes for Lt Governor		John Read had	61,361	John Mills	35,801	Henry W. Cushman	<u>26,670</u>
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Votes for Lt Governor																							
John Read had	61,361																						
John Mills	35,801																						
Henry W. Cushman	<u>26,670</u>																						
Lt. Governor }	<p>There being no choice, George N Brigg was chosen Governor, and John Read Lt. Governor, according to the Constitution.</p>																						
Re marks }	<p>This difference of political sentiment, among a people, enjoying a <u>free constitution</u> and all professing to be <u>republicans</u>, is a singular anomaly, regretted by the <u>patriot</u>. But were a plan question in Geometry, submitted to the people, would there be less diversity of opinion?</p>																						
16	<u>Tuesday</u> , m. fair, wind West. and day fair.																						
Two Deaths }	<p>We hear of the Death of <u>Thomas Wells Dickinson</u>, one of our industrious farmers, and also of Mrs <u>Root</u> (at Wappin) Mr Dickinson was 65 years of age, &amp; has left a wife and children; he was a son of the late Col. Thomas Wells Dickinson of this town. The peculiar hard fate of the deceased always excited my sympathy. He felt the cold hand of <u>want</u>, while</p>																						

- Jany while, [ ] [ ] the reward of  
 16 industry, and diligent labor, he would  
 have been in easy circumstances.
- 17 Wednesday. m cloudy, wind W.  
 but the day generally fair. Some  
 thawing of the snow from the  
 south roof of buildings~
- 18 Thursday m. fair, wind W;  
 last night strong winds prevailed  
 the day was fair throughout  
 and cold ~
- 19 Friday. m. fair, wind West  
 and a fair day & cold  
 We learn that President Hitchcock  
 and his lady barely escaped a fatal  
 Nar } crash on the rail road between our  
 row } depot & burying ground, this afternoon  
 escape } Caution. Never walk longitudinally  
on a rail road. In the case an  
 untimely train was passing, which  
 will often be the case, notwithstanding  
 the utmost care. Heavy lo  
 des moving along a road at the  
 speed of 20 miles an hour, are danger  
 ous to the inhabitants in the vicinity.
- 20 Saturday. m. fair & cold, wind SW;  
 day fair & cold. Thermometer  $\frac{1}{0}$
- 21 Sunday. m. fair, wind West  
 day partially cloudy. The weath  
 has become a little more moderate  
 than in a few days past, but hard  
 ly to be attributed to the decrease of  
 the sun's declination.
- 22 Monday. m. fair, wind W day  
 clear & cold. My house clock  
 having ceased its motion I am left  
 without graduated time of course  
 my

- Jany  
 22 My ship's longitude is uncertain, depending on dead-reckoning, or generally full of errors. And those in the voyage of life we are bent with currants, counter currants, storms, shoals & rifts, which baffle our skill, and expose us to the greatest danger; and often bar an entrance to the designed post
- 23 Tuesday m. partially fair, wind W  
 PM sun frequently out
- 24 Wednesday m. fair, wind SW  
 the day fair and cold.
- Letter from J. Munsell, Albany } A Gentleman of Albany writes me under the signature of J. Munsell requesting information concerning the death of Miss M.Crea in 1777 as I have given in the transactions of the New York Historical Society. This account I had sent to the late Col. of that City, who I suppose had handed it to the Society. He seems to take an interest in that barbarous event, and ~~is~~ seems at a loss, which among the various accounts, is correct. I think I must give him a letter on the subject. Mr Munsell is a Corresponding member of the N. York Historical Society, of which, I am also a member.
- 25 Thursday m cloudy, wind SW  
 and day generally cloudy with slight rain
- 26 Friday m. cloudy with rain  
 & SW wind PM part of day fair  
 and wind NW

Jany 27 Saturday m fair, wind West,  
and the day  
Last night our river broke up, with  
a considerable rise of water and its  
channel filled with broken ice, The day  
was fair to the close and such the  
rize of the river as to stop the operations  
of Stebbins mills.

28 Sunday m. fair but soon  
Cloudy, wind N.E. and day  
generally fair.

29 Monday m. cloudy wind SW  
and the day cloudy

30 Tuesday m cloudy, but soon  
fair, & wind SW; fair at  
noon & then cloudy. and wind SE  
Composing a Letter to J. Munsell  
Esqr at Albany on the murder  
of Jane MCreas at Fort Edward  
in 1777, which I find difficult  
from my impaired eye sight.

Let  
ter  
on the  
murder  
of Miss  
MCreas  
of 9  
pages

I have endeavored to show Mr Munsell that the accounts of Gordon Ramsey and other early writers are correct as to the manner of the murder, but that the place is erroneously fixed at the Pine tree inscribed with her name at a spring north of the village, is not the spot where she was killed, and is found in the present wood [ ] [ ] up the hill north of the village

Jany  
 30 The murder of this young Lady made  
 a deep impression at the time, and  
 taught Gen. Burgoyne the danger of em  
 ploying savages in warfare; and  
 on his return to England, he did he  
 withhold this expression of his opinion.

31 Wednesday. m. fair wind N.E.;  
 last night cold—the day clear.  
 This day closes the month  
 of January, which has, in general,  
 been cold, except at the time of  
 one or two short rains, the last  
 of which broke upon our river, and  
 filled the channel with a mass of  
 ice.

February  
 1 Thursday m. cloudy & N.E. wind.  
 Last night 2 or 3 inches of snow fell, and  
 the day continued cloudy & cold.

2 Friday. m. cloudy, wind SW and  
 the day generally cloudy  
 Yesterday put a letter of 9 pages  
 into the mail, for J. Munsell Esqr  
 of Albany, on the murder of Miss Jane  
 M.Crea, being an answer to his of  
 the 20<sup>th</sup> int. It may, perhaps, be said  
 this thrilling event has become obso  
 lete and may be left to history.  
 But as the supposed place of the mur  
 der is marked and often visited by  
 tourists I feel desirous that the true  
 place and circumstances of the death  
 should be known; and that the  
 sympathizing visitant should not pour out  
 his lamentations on a spot distant  
 from the place where the unfortunate  
 Lady fell. The pine at a spring in  
 the woods has, I am informed, been mark  
 ed as the spot, by no relyable authority;  
 and

Letter  
 to J }  
 Munsell at  
 Albany }

Re }  
 marks }

Feby  
2

Mr  
C Nel  
son's  
Book

My  
research  
es

and the story of her murder is now often given, with all the distortions of imagination, some of which represent the character of the victim in an unfavorable light, in dire opposition to the early documents which never lisped a syllable against her respectability. Mr Munsell notices Mr. Charles Nelson's history of Burgoyne's invasion, a book I have not seen, nor any printed notice of it. Is the campaign too old to attract attention?

The Invasion is still within my recollection, being then about 12 years of age, and my subsequent acquaintance with officers and soldiers who served in the campaign has kept the events fresh in my memory; and in several reconnaissances of the country between the mouths of the Mohawk & Ticonderoga since 1817 I have travel out nearly every battle & skirmish that occurred, both in the war 1755 and that of our revolution and the topography of the country is pretty distinctly retained.

If in traversing these fields the bones of fallen heroes are found, useful reflect reflections are elicited and when we learn that here our friends and connexions exposed their lives in the service of their country, we feel a sort of reverence for the ground and leave it with regret.

3 Saturday m. fair, wind W: the day fair & clear.

Our papers say Mr Webster is engaged in writing a History of President Washingtons administration, in full. Such a work will not be received by our democratic leaders very cordially as it

Feby  
 3 will unmask the base means they  
 resorted to for the destruction of his  
 character and to render him odious  
 to his country. To men of my  
 age who witnessed the rise of the  
 democratic party, Mr Webster will  
 furnish little new matter  
 but to young men his work  
 may be a great importance in  
 correcting the works they have [ ]  
 through the influence of designing  
 men

Webster  
 on Wash }  
 ingtons  
 ingtons  
 admin  
 istration }

4 Sunday. m. fair, wind S.W.  
 day fair, but some haze. PM

5 Monday m cloudy, some snow,  
 wind S.W.; the day continued cloudy  
 and the wind changed to NE.

6 Tuesday m fair, and NE cold  
 PM cloudy. ~  
Eight o'clock in the evening, cloudy  
 with a gentle snow, and no one  
 calls in for a a social chat. I sit and  
 gaze upon the fire and recall remini  
 scences of olden times and scenes.  
 Our forefathers and old acquaintances  
 where are they?—Gone to their  
 long homes and nearly forgotten!  
Forgotten did I say? No their virtues  
 still live in reflection, and afford  
 us useful lessons. We see them breast  
 ing the savage foe, in their first  
 essays at settlements on the frontiers  
 of the country, and taking the field  
 in distant campaigns when their coun  
 try called: of which the Upper Hud  
 son, Lakes George & Champlain, afforded  
 generous examples as well as our own Connecticut.

Even }  
 ing  
 reflec }  
 tions  
 while }  
 alone }

In the French wars and particularly  
 that of 1755, our town afforded a rare  
 race of hardy, resolute & intelligent men  
 who took the field and distinguished  
 themselves



- Feby  
 6  
 Our }  
 Fath }  
 ers }
- themselves by their gallantry and firm resolution, and have left names & characters worthy of remembrance. With most of these I have been acquainted & from them heard details of their campaigns and adventures, which made a lasting impression upon my mind. With these recollections, and those of the revolutionary war, I am not exactly alone when deprived of company, though much of my enjoyment is abridged by the failure of my eyesight, which prevents my reading by candle light~
- 7 Wednesday m. fair, wind N.E. and the day clear, but cold~
- 8 Thursday. m fair, wind SW PM cloudy & cold.
- Rut }  
 and }  
 rail }  
 road }
- Richard Arms, one of my sons assistants, made me a call and gave an account of the progress of the Burlington & Rutland Railroad; He thinks it will be in operation by next fall; the whole distance from Burlington to Bellows falls 116 miles. He represents the weather as having been cold, but the snow much less than in this section of the country. This lack of snow west of the Hoosac range of mountains has often been noticed.
- 9 Friday M. partially fair, wind W. and snow fell last night 2 or 3 inches; ; the day cold. weather he says has been pretty severe since December.
- 10 Saturday M fair wind SW and day generally fair & cold. The weather for 5 or 6 weeks has been uniformly cold, with a few exceptions.

- Feby  
11 Sunday m cloudy, wind SW  
and day cloudy  
A letter to my friends at Burling  
ton by Richard Arms, who leaves  
tomorrow morning.
- 12 Monday. M. cloudy, some snow  
wind NE The day continued  
cloudy and cold, with a sprink  
ling of snow. A very cold day.
- 13 Tuesday M. fair wind N  
and day clear; the air a little  
softened by the sun's rays.  
Joseph Henry Esqr. of Halifax  
arrived at my house in the evening.  
and took quarters for the night.
- 14 Wednesday m. fair, wind S.W.  
PM cloudy & cold.
- 15 Thursday m. fair wind SW  
and thermometer  $\frac{0}{12}$  to  $\frac{0}{14}$ , cold  
as any morn this winter The  
day fair & cloudy alternately~  
A letter from my friends at Burling  
ton of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. Arthur & Charles  
both afflicted with the whooping cough  
They say they have no sleighing but  
cold weather enough. Esqr Henry  
returned to Halifax, in the forenoon  
and I think will be fortunate if his  
cars escape a nipping. In such  
extreme cold it is trying to ones pa  
tience to use green fuel. To insure a fire  
it is necessary to pile on a considerable  
quantity of fuel, and if it burns the water  
evaporated carries off the heat of the stove  
& thereby prevents the heating of the stove & room  
and I now induced to believe dry fuel is the  
[      ]
- Letter  
from  
Burling  
ton }
- Green  
fuel }

- Feb'y 16 Friday. m fair wind SW;  
thermometers  $\frac{0}{18}$  to  $\frac{0}{20}$  PM gener  
ally cloudy
- 17 Saturday, m. partially cloudy  
wind NE; the day generally cloudy  
and cold enough.
- 18 Sunday m cloudy, wind NE  
the day fair & cloudy by turns.
- 19 Monday m. fair, wind W,  
& severely cold—thermometer  $\frac{8}{15}$   
and the day clear & cold.
- 20 Tuesday. m cloudy, wind NW  
thermometer  $\frac{0}{10}$ , and day cloudy  
and very cold. My fuel being  
green wood I find it difficult to  
keep my room comfortably warm.
- 21 Wednesday. m. fair, wind NW.  
and the day clear with softened air.  
Since I wrote to Mr. Munsell of  
Albany, he has sent me by mail  
an unbound Vol. of Mr Nelson's Bur  
goyne's Campaign 291 pages 12 mo.  
with a map of Bemus Heights, and al  
so a Letter acknowledging the receipt of  
mine. I shall make a critical in  
section of the work. On a first view  
the map of the ground appears somewhat  
deceptive, and some errors I have already  
noticed.
- 22 Thursday M cloudy, wind N.E.; day  
the same and in absence of the suns  
rays the air cold.
- 23 Friday. m cloudy & a [ ] of snow  
but soon fair wind NE: the after  
noon clear – air softened

Nel  
son's  
Bur  
goyne }

Feb		<u>Saturday</u> m. fair, wind N.E.
24		PM mostly cloudy
		<u>Sunday</u> m cloudy with some
25		snow, wind N, and the day the
		the same excepting snow
26		<u>Monday</u> . M. fair, wind NE; PM
		generally cloudy & a sprinkling of snow
27		<u>Tuesday</u> . m cloudy, wind N.
		and the day continued cloudy and
		of course the air cold from a want
		of the sun's rays.
28		<u>Wednesday</u> M cloud, wind NE
		and the day cloudy.
Cold ness of the winter	}	This month as well as that of Janu
		ary has been very cold, excepting
		a day or two of the latter, in which
		we had a thaw which broke up
		the ice of our river. The snow is
		now about 10 inches & sleighing good
		but as the sun's declination is only about
		8° S. we may look for warm air
		in the course of a few days. The
		cold winter of 1780 is recollected in
That of 1780	}	which, <u>it is said</u> , no melting of the
		snow occurred for <u>six weeks</u> . The tem
		perature, of the present winter, has been
		nearly as low as that of 1780, but not
		so uniformly cold as that is represented.
		nor the snow so deep (from 3 to 4 feet)
Long Island sound froze en	}	On the 7 <sup>th</sup> of February of that year a body
		of the enemy's horse said to be about 300
		and the 7 <sup>th</sup> British regiment, came over from
		Long Island to West Chester on the ice (See
		Heath's memoirs, page 232)
		Instances of this kind have been
		rare, and I believe do not occur
		[ ] in modern times.

- March 1      Thursday m. cloudy & wind SW  
 PM fair and cloudy by turns  
 and the air cold from a want of the  
 sun's rays. To [ ] [ ] the  
 atmosphere, which has been common  
 this winter may be attributed the in  
 tense cold we have experienced.  
 during the months of January and  
 February.
- 2              Friday m. fair, wind NE and  
 cold, and the day partially clou  
 dy after noon.
- 3              Saturday m. fair, wind North  
 and the day was fair  
 President Polk closes his administra  
 tion at the end of this day, and no  
patriot will regret it. Let impari  
 al History record the merits of his  
 political course. His invasion of Mexi  
 co for the purpose of the conquest  
 of territory will ever be a dark  
 chapter in our annals, and teach  
 us that a nation to be happy must be  
 just and honorable.
- 4              Sunday, M. fair, wind NE  
 and the day clear from clouds, but  
 rather cold.
- 5              Monday M fair, wind NE  
 the day continued fair & pleasant.  
 Our annual meeting for the choice  
 of town officers for the ensuing year.  
 and the day for the inauguration  
 of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency.  
 Of Mr Polk may now retire to Tennessee to resume

- March  
5 his proper occupation and our democratic war hawks learn that a spirit of conquest is not so generally diffused throughout the country as they had supposed. We cherish the hope that a placid system of Government will be adopted by President Taylor, and that this wild war spirit of conquest will be put at rest.
- 6 Tuesday m. fair, wind NE at PM cloudy, the air cold. The hills facing the west now present patches of ground, but the snow is of considerable depth in the vallies. Whether the coldness of the winter indicates a late spring is a question of doubtful solution. If the temperature of the earth depended entirely ~~on the~~ sun's rays, we might conclude then a severe winter could be followed by a late spring; but this I believe is not the case, as is evident from the operation of internal forces in the earth as evinced by volcanic phenomena.
- 7 Wednesday. M cloudy; a little snow falls wind SW and the day cloudy throughout.
- 8 Thursday m fair, wind W.  
and day mostly fair & cold.
- Departure of my resident family } This day my resident family, Henry Osgood and wife (Charlotte) left our place and Austin Rice of this town supplies the vacancies. Mr Osgood is now to go to Sullivan N.H. to reside with his father, at his request. During a residence of nearly two years, he and his wife have afforded me full satisfaction in

March  
8

Note  
of their  
kind  
ness }

the management of my affairs, and evinced a kindness and care which demands my thanks; and it is pleasing to record, that during their residence with me, not an instance has occurred of misunderstanding, or any thing which could mar good feelings, has happened I part with them and the prosperity and happiness due to worth.

In the evening an Eclips of the moon of between 8 & 9 digits on the south [    ]  
The new determination of the place of the heavenly bodies, and especially of the moon excites my surprise, since her motion is subject to so many causes of variation in its orbit. To construct accurate tables of her motion, must have required the utmost skill of able astronomers who have "sought science in her coy abode."

- 9      Friday m. fair, wind NW; the day fair excepting scattering clouds; the air rather cold.
- 10     Saturday. m fair, wind W, and a fair day & cold air which may continue through the present month.
- 11     Sunday. M. fair, wind NW and very cold; day clear.
- 12     Monday m. fair, wind N and day clear; but the sun makes little impression on the snow, & winter still reigns
- 13     Tuesday m. fair, wind S.W and the day clear & air softened to an agreeable temperature. Our street maples now afford a copious flow of Sap. This process of nature always excited my wonder. Where the saccharine matter joins in the sap? Is it [    ] in

- the roots of the tree and propelled upwards to the body in opposition to gravity, by some unknown power on this subject See page 267 of Parkes Chemical Catechism, et seq.
- March 13
- 14 Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind East; the day was cloudy
- 15 Thursday m cloudy, wind S the day cloudy with some hail, rain & snow. In the evening Mr Rice was married to Miss Clara Ball of this town & they now constitute my resident family.
- 16 Friday m. cloudy & wind W; PM fair and snow dissolves.
- 17 Saturday, m. cloudy but soon broken wind SW PM cloudy
- 18 Sunday. M. fair, wind West; day partially cloudy & fair at night; air rather cold
- 19 Monday m. fair, wind W and day fair & cool  
Recd. letters from my son & wife at Burlington , March 12<sup>th</sup> All pretty well
- 20 Tuesday m. fair wind SW, the day hazy. Sun at the vernal equinox and the snow much reduced, or in some places gone.
- 21 Wednesday m. cloudy, wind NE and last night rain, the day cloudy with moderate rain wind changed to SW
- 22 Thursday m fair, wind NW, and day fair, Our river has risen over the two banks and flooded the low lands Some of the migrating birds have arrived from unknown regions. Who taught



March		
22		
migrating birds	}	
		taught these erratic emigrants
		that the temperature of our latitude
		is more prepared for their reception
		or do they possess the art of de
		termining the <u>sun's place by intu</u>
		<u>ition</u> ? We say they are guided
Re	}	by <u>instinct</u> ; but does this explain
marks		the mystery? Not in the least: We
		use a term as inexplicable as the fast
		and rest satisfied with <u>learned</u>
		technicals.
23		<u>Friday</u> . m. partially cloudy, wind
		SW, and air cold. PM fair
		and clear; very little snow to
		be seen; but the channel of our
		rivers is still bound with brok
		en ice, while the Connecticut, I
		am informed, is open. In the
		present condition of our river the
		existence of its fish appears an
		impossibility, and no doubt [    ]
		are destroyed by ice floods; but
		wherever life is bestowed means
		for preserving it are found.
24		<u>Saturday</u> m cloudy wind
		SW and most of the day cloudy
		and cold. Our General Court
		is still in session, <u>dragging</u> on
		its slow business by <u>committees</u> ,
		than which a more tardy mode
		cannot be devised.
25		<u>Sunday</u> m cloudy & some rain
		wind S.W.; the day continued
		the same
26		Monday. m cloudy with snow & wind N
		snow

March  
 26 snow continued most of the day  
 to 2 inches ore more in depth.  
 27 Tuesday m. cloudy, with snow  
 which fell yesterday & last night to  
 the depth of about 6 inches; wind NE  
 the aspect is now that of mid winter  
 the day continued cloudy with some  
 snow and rain.  
 28 Wednesday m cloudy, wind N.E.  
 & rain; the day continued cloudy  
 and the snow has had a rapid  
 dissolution. the ground appearing  
 in extensive patches. So rapid a  
 dissolution was not anticipated in the  
 absence of the sun's rays.  
 29 Thursday m cloudy, wind NE  
 and the day the same. the ground  
 again free from snow, excepting  
 on the high hills. From the rapid des  
 solution of a six inch snow we  
 may conclude that the ground is  
 free from frost, and has received  
 a considerable degree of heat from some  
 source; Shall we say from the centr  
 ral heat of the earth, or from the  
 sun's rays?  
 30 Friday m. cloudy, wind NE  
 and some rain, the day was cloudy  
 throughout, with considerable rain  
 31 Saturday. m. cloudy, wind NE  
 PM the clouds broke away, lift and  
 clear sun.  
 April  
 1 Sunday. M. fair, wind NW.  
 day partially clear

- April      Monday m fair, wind W  
 2      and fair day & cold, for the season  
 3      Tuesday m. fair, wind SW rest  
      of the day cloudy, but fair at night  
 4      Wednesday m. fair, wind SW  
      and fair day~ warm air  
      Wrote to my friends at Burlington  
      The rail road from that place by Rut  
      land to Bellows falls is expected to be  
      completed before the close of the year  
      When this and the central road are  
      finished two routes will be found to  
      Boston from Burlington and there  
      will be a strife between the two, and  
      which will gain the ascendancy is the  
      question to be solved. The project of  
      a rail road from Greenfield to Troy by  
      a tunnel through Hoosac mountain  
      I have considered as utopian in the  
      extreme, and without a chance  
      of success. The project may serve  
      us a play thing for theorists, but the  
      prudent capitalist will be slow in  
      vesting his money on a scheme so vis  
      ionary.
- 5      Thursday m cloudy, wind SW  
      PM fair wind W
- 6      Friday m fair, wind NW  
      and fair day
- 7      Saturday m. fair, wind SW  
      PM mostly cloudy
- 8      Sunday m fair, wind NW &  
      day partly cloudy
- 9      Monday m fair wind NE; day  
      fair.

- April  
10  
1849  
Tuesday m cloudy, wind SW; the day cloudy with the some rain  
By accounts from the Mississippi appears that the Cholera is making progress up that river, and has reached Quincey in Illinois. The disease is found on most of the steam boats from New Orleans. Can its contagiousness be doubted?
- 11  
Wednesday m. fair, wind West and day fair & pleasant.  
Died this day Mr Aaron Arms aged     , and yesterday Mrs. Bardwell widow of the late Henry Bardwell
- 12  
Thursday m. fair, wind NE day fair & cool air. Attended library meeting at the Library room on business relating to the dissolution of the Library or cancellation of the Constitution.
- 13  
Friday m cloudy wind SW a day generally cloudy
- 14  
Saturday m. fair, wind NW & cold air. A flash of snow fell; then fair & cold
- 15  
Sunday m cloudy wind SW; last night very cold; day partly fair & the thermometer I am informed not over 3 degrees at any time of the day.
- 16  
Monday m. cloudy, wind W the day cold & partly cloudy. with snow seen on the distant mountain

1849      Tuesday  
 April      m. fair, wind W. and day  
 17      fair & mild air  
 18      Wednesday m. fair wind W  
          the day partly cloudy.  
          For two days past I have been unwell  
          from some derangement of my uninary  
          functions  
 19      Thursday. This m. a snow  
          storm from NE, the snow  
          about 4 inches in depth. PM  
          some rain fell. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April  
          last year we had a similar snow  
 20      Friday m fair, wind SW, but  
          most of the day hazy. At night snow nearly  
          gone on the low grounds  
 21      Saturday m fair wind NW  
          and day fair & cool  
 22      Sunday m cloudy, wind N  
          and day hazy.  
 23      Monday m. fair, wind W.  
          afternoon cloudy  
 24      Tuesday m fair, wind W, day  
          fair  
 25      Wednesday m fair wind N  
          & day fair

April  
 26 Thursday m. fair, wind NE  
 and day  
 Letter from my son at Burlington  
 of April 19<sup>th</sup> with 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. of Buck  
 inham's Travels, and Lyell's  
 Elements of Geology (by Mrs Sheldon)  
 27 Friday m cloudy, wind NE and  
 day fair & cool  
 28 Saturday m cloudy with rain  
 and wind N; day cloudy and  
 cold, with some rain  
 29 Sunday m. fair, wind NW  
 day fair & pleasant  
 30 Monday m. fair wind SW  
 and day mostly fair.  
 My young friend David S Hoyt  
 set out on a tour to the western states  
 this morn and I loaned to him my  
 pocket compass, in a mahogany box  
 He proposes to go to Illinois and De  
 troit, to locate his Land warrant  
 in that region, if he is pleased with  
 it, and seems to prefer the South  
 part of that state for his location  
 May Tuesday m hazy wind SW  
 1 day hazy & fair  
 2 Wednesday. m fair & cold, wind  
 NE & NW cold day.

- May  
3      Thursday m. fair, wind NE  
and cool. Latter part of the  
day cloudy. Up to this time we  
have had no warm weather
- 4      Friday. m. cloudy & some distant  
thunder heard; wind SW. soon became  
fair, but mostly cloudy P.M. and  
air warmer than it has been.
- 5      Saturday m. cloudy with  
rain & NE wind; the day  
My island friend C.O. Boutelle, his wife and  
little Charlie made me a visit. He is  
recently from Charleston, SC where  
he has been carrying on his trigono-  
metrical operations, and to be em-  
ployed this season, on the coast of  
main. He is all intelligence and  
brilliancy, and plays with intri-  
cate problems with perfect ease  
He leaves this day for Cambridge to  
render his ingenious labor.
- 6      Sunday m. cloudy, wind NE  
day cloudy & rainy & cool  
air. Vegetation of course holds back.
- 7      Monday. M. cloudy, wind NE  
and the day continued cloudy and  
wind changed to SW. day cloudy
- 8      Tuesday. m. cloudy & some rain' wind SW  
day cloudy with some rain & cold

[     ]

- May 9<sup>th</sup> Wednesday m. cloudy & rain with S.W. wind; the day cloudy throughout.
- 10 Thursday m fair, wind SW followed by a fair day, but many clouds
- 11 Friday m. fair, wind N.E. after noon cloudy
- 12 Saturday m. fair, wind NE the day fair. Very little or no appearance of vegetation in our trees nor have we had a real warm day this spring, the sun being generally shrouded by clouds or thick vapor.
- 13 Sunday m. cloudy, wind and day cloudy & wind NE & S. and SW and rain fell
- 14 Monday m. fair wind NW PM cloudy & cold
- 15 Tuesday m broken clouds Wind NW the latter part of the day cloudy. Our fruit trees show no blossoms
- 16 Wednesday m. fair, wind NE cloudy most of the day and air cool
- 17 Thursday m fair wind NE & cold air: the day cloudy PM or frequently so



May            Friday m. fair, wind NE  
 18            day fair & clear at night  
 19            Saturday m fair, wind West  
                  and a fair day.  
                  A caravan of horse, camels, elephant  
                  ponies, ornamental carriages &c.  
                  past our vally in the morning, for  
                  exhibition at Greenfield, where various  
                  feats are to be performed, [    ] of an  
                  [\_\_\_\_\_]. From its novelty no  
                  doubt many will pay their 25 cents  
                  to gratify their curiosity; for myself  
                  I have no desire to witness the per  
                  for mances, since I am fully gratified  
                  by investigating the wonderful laws  
                  of nature which everywhere surround  
                  us, and never cease to instruct.

20            Sunday m fair, wind SW  
                  and day fair but hazy.  
                  Last evening I heard of the death  
                  of Richard E Newcomb of Greenfield,  
                  our judge of Probate, on Monday last  
                  on his 79<sup>th</sup> year. It is singular  
                  that 4 days should have passed  
                  without my hearing of his decease  
                  Fruit trees begin to show blos  
                  soms—very late in the Season  
                  [    ] has been cold.

May 21 Monday m fair, wind W  
 the day arguably warm, but  
 hazy or cloudy towards night  
 22 Tuesday m. cloudy, wind N  
 changed to SW and the day partially  
 fair. Our first trees now present  
 a pleasing aspect on their floral ap  
 pearance, and the maples a consider  
 able foliage. Though very late we  
 may have a fruitful season.  
 23 Wednesday m. cloudy, wind S.W.  
 and the air summer like. I dis  
 pence with fire in my sitting room  
 for the first time this season  
 PM Generally fair & wind NW  
 Some distant thunder heard.  
 24 Thursday m cloudy, wind NE  
 and the day the same, and a fire  
 in my room necessary.  
 Twenty five day have elapsed since  
 my connexion, David S Hoyt, left  
 us for the state of Illinois where  
 he proposed to locate his land war  
 rant of 160 acres. To make a judicious  
 choice of location may be a work  
 of sometime By a newspaper [   ]  
 [   ] at Chicago of the instant  
 we learn he arrived at that place

- May 24 From Chicago he will probably proceed southerly to explore the state bordering on the Ohio, which he seemed to prefer to the north on account of the climate: my best wishes attend him wherever he may go; and his success & prosperity will add to my own~
- 25 Friday m cloudy with rain and NE wind, and the day continued cloudy throughout and the air cool of course. The frequency of cloudy weather, this season, will account for its lateness. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of May up to the present time we have not had more than one or two day, that can be called warm. The present season is much behind that of lets say, 10 or 20 days. Is our climate becoming colder? Many facts indicating this may be addressed; and I am [ ] to the affirmative side of the question
- 26 Saturday m. fair & cool N. wind. PM. hazy and day cool
- 27 Sunday m fair; wind SW; PM cloudy: air moderate

May  
28

Monday m. fair, wind SE  
and day cloudy PM as usual [ ] [ ]  
President Hitchcock, made me  
a short call, on the morn. He  
has been lecturing on Geology at the  
Smithsonian Institution at Washington  
and thinks the Institution will be use  
ful to the science of the country. He  
promised to favor me with a  
perusal of Squires & Davidsons Book  
on the antiquaries of the west which  
is in the College Library. He says  
he found many men of success at  
Washington City.

29

Tuesday m cloudy, wind NE  
throughout. Very few day of  
clear sky have occurred since  
the Spring seas commenced. If the sky  
is clear in the morning, It is covered  
afternoon with a sort of dense  
fog which shuts out the sun  
and of course the air remains  
cool. My farmer Austin [ ]  
who visited my wood lot, at  
the head of of Stillwater on  
Deerfield River this day, saw  
a mass of ice on the north  
bank of the river, near my  
SE angle of several feet in thickness

May  
30

Wednesday m cloudy  
with N.E. wind & rain,  
the day continued cloudy  
& rainy, The continuance of cloudy  
weather is remarkable, and  
not easily explained on known  
principles. That there has been  
changes in atmospheric phenomena  
with 50 or 60 years, seems to me  
to admit of no doubt; and whe  
ther these changes are owing to the  
clearing of the country of its  
woods, is a question not easily  
solved.

31

Thursday m cloudy, wind NE  
and some thunder heard  
The day mostly cloudy. Sun out before  
Rail Roads. We learn that the En  
gineers on the Burlington, Rutland  
& Bellows falls road are laying the  
rails on the road; Whether the grad  
ing over mount Holly is com  
pleted I am not informed. An  
engineer (Edwards) is now making  
a definite survey from Greenfield vil  
lage through the western part of  
our town, to Deerfield river, and  
thence up the river to Shelburne  
falls, and the contemplated Troy  
route. What route will be taken  
from the falls is doubtful; the  
boring

boring of a tunnel through Hoosac  
 mountain, between Florida and  
 Adams, is an idle attempt.  
 May 31 We learn that the Norfolk County  
 Rail road has failed, & resigned all its  
 effects to its creditors. The road  
 leads from Dedham to Backsone  
 about 26 miles, and is said to have  
 cost about 900,000 dollars, 400,000  
 of which only was taken up. The com  
 pany it is said had paid 21 per  
 cent interest to sustain the road  
 This is a specimen of the fate of  
 all short routes, not leading di  
rectly to great trading marts. In  
 their zeal for rail roads, the people  
 of the country have lost sight of the  
 fact, that none but the great arte  
ries of trade can be supported. A few  
 years, I think, will correct the error.  
 June 1 Friday m fair wind SW  
 PM became cloudy & wind NE  
 2 Saturday n fair, wind SW  
 the day nearly fair, cloudy at close  
 Mr William Thaddius Harris  
 of Cambridge writes me, requesting  
 a Vol. of my Antiquarian researches  
 I am not able to furnish him  
 a copy, but have directed [ ]  
 Williams

June  
2 Williams, to whom Mr Harris  
has interested the business, where  
he may probably find the work  
Mr Harris speaks well of the  
work. I regret that it is so  
full of press errors, and that I  
have not been able to give it a  
second edition on which these er  
rors might be sponged, & some false  
topography corrected. Any compli  
mentary expressions from Gentlemen  
residing in the atmosphere Cam  
bridge College was unlooked for,  
on which classical knowledge is  
more relied on than natural phi  
losophy and none are deemed learn  
ed but adopts in the dead lan  
guges of Greece & Rome. [    ]  
source of poetry and imagination  
but not of pure science.  
“To me be nation’s volume, broad displayed  
And to peruse its all interesting page  
My sole delight”  
By stepping out of the path,  
we become bewildered and lose  
sight of the main object: Viz the  
system of nature.

3 Sunday m. fair wind SW  
but most of the day cloudy &  
thunder at night.

June  
4

Monday m. cloudy wind SW  
and air partaking of  
summer temperature; the  
day fair until afternoon  
and at 4 oclock became  
[ ] over the sky, attend  
with rain & thunder. The  
shower was of short duration  
and the sun appeared again  
and the air was calm &  
not a leaf was seen to stir.  
This sudden spread of clouds over  
the sky and the shower may  
be explained as follows: the SW  
wind having been [ ] had brought  
warm southern vapor & meeting  
a colder region, in the north  
was suddenly condensed, formed  
the cloud over the sky, & fell  
in rain. Espy's theory seems  
in applicable to the case.  
About 6 oclock the wind  
again prevailed from SW, but  
with less force. Had a north  
erly or a westerly wind prevailed  
probably the shower would not  
have occurred.

5

Tuesday m. fair wind NE  
air cool & soon changed to NW



June  
5

The wind being NW  
& brisk, the day was fair and  
cool~ By the last accounts  
Europ appears to be far  
from a settled state, and in  
fact there is strong indications  
of a general war. What will be  
the result time alone can determine  
We have flattered ourselves that  
the world was improving, and  
that wars were about to cease,  
but probably future history  
will present as many dark pa  
sages as that of olden times.  
Shall we say, therefore, that the  
civilized nations of Europe,  
with all their improvements  
in arts, science, literature, and  
claims to a pure religion.  
have a little, or no, advances to  
words the condition anticipated  
by our [     ]

6

A }  
ride }

Wednesday m. fair wind variates  
from SW to NW day fair &  
pleasant. Took a ride to Mr  
Rice's on the bank of the Con  
necticut & their home by Cheap  
side. The lands on the river ap  
pear under good cultivation, and  
the buildings pleasantly situated.  
and the people hospitable     At

June 6 Con necti cut river farm	}	at what time the settlement commenced on the vast bank the river I am not certain but probably after the old French war of 1744. Say about 1750 Prior to 1748, the settlers would have been exposed to Indian depredations at the commencement of the revolutionary war, in 1775 there were farms on the river; that of Levi Newton now Rice's had an orchard of thirty apple trees, one of which, it is said, produced apples sufficient for 6 or 7 barrels of cider, Orchard now extinct.
7  Visit of old friends	}	<u>Thursday</u> m fair, wind NW and day fair, but cool Two antiquarians from Northfield Rev. Mr Mason & Mr Isaac Mattoon called on me. Mr Mason appears to be feeble, but Mr Mattoon active, both are rather short of my age. and full of anecdote. The meeting was cordial & pleasant. Mr Mason say his sight is so impaired that he cannot read at all. What a misfortune to an enquiring mind.
8		<u>Friday</u> m. cloudy & rainy wind NE, and; the day the same, until night, when the sun [    ] <u>Rail roads</u> [    ] capital ists have refused to [    ] to

June  
8

Rail }  
road }

to the stocks of these roads the plan of raising money by borrowing on Bond is adopted, and future roads are to be constructed by loaned money at 6 percent The road from Grouts to Greenfield I am informed is thus to be completed with all expedition including two expensive bridges over Connecticut and Deerfield rivers. Whether this road will afford a profit sufficient to pay the interest & cost of maintaining it, is doubtful. If the road terminates at Greenfield it cannot command very extensive business; for the country north of Bernardston will find channels of trade to Boston by the Northfield & Keene routes. But the contemplated road from Greenfield to Troy & Schenectady is to turn off a vast trade from the Boston and Albany road. On the Troy route nature has interposed an insurmountable barrier, Hoosac mountain, and the impossibility of a practicable tunnels of 4 or five miles is seen by all who are acquainted with the nature of such a work, [     ] zeal may for a time continue the delusion, but this will at length cool & cease to amuse its advocates

June  
8  
Rail }  
Roads }

In the New-York trade a Road may be continued from Brattleborough up the river to Bellows falls but so long as Boston continues the great mart of trade for New England, the trade in that direction will be comparatively small.

A rail road is now projected from Rutland in Vermont to White hall at the head of Lake Champlain which will command the New York trade from the western part of Vermont, and will lessen the trade from Rutland to Bellows falls. In short the multiplication of rail-roads, may prove ruinous to these [ ]. At any rate none but the great arteries of trade will find support and the construction of rail roads for the accommodation of a few towns in the interior is a farce, without claims even to amusement.

The introduction of Rail roads has created in the people, an enthusiasm which overlooks their cost and millions of dollars are now considered but a small small sum

In England after the completion of a few of these principle ways this enthusiasm was raised to a high degree, and Parliament was inundated with petitioners for charters from all parts of the nation; and in 1839 the number declined in Great Britain & Ireland was 107 and

- June  
8 the capitol they were allowed to raise by shares, was £41,610,814; they were besides allowed to raise by loan £16,177,630. A considerable number of these being crude speculations, have now commenced and the rail ways actually begin to be prepared or finished, at the beginning of 1840 in the United kingdom was only about 50. An immense number of companies were formed, and routes survey to every part of the kingdom But it soon became apparent that more capital would be required to complete the roads, than could probably be raised for the purpose; and that the amount of travelling required to enable the companies to pay their current expenses, and the interest on the capital invested were greater than could be realized; and that the consequences would be a failure of most of the projects, and a dead loss; a general explosion of the schemes took place, with the ruin of the large stock holders. For further particulars see Chambers, "Information for the People," pages 143 & 144. Vol. 1
- 9 Saturday m. fair, wind NE with cold air and lazy sky through the day. Not a hot day has occurred this season. Yesterday 2 cows were destroyed on the

June 9	rail-road, east of our street by the rail road train The cows had strayed from Bloody Brook & followed the road. I am not certain that in such accidents, there is not some carelessness on the part of the con ducters. Accidents of this kind are too frequent. All <u>crossing</u> of rail roads I consider as danger ous, and that leading to our cemetery peculiarly so. A fatal distraction of life may occur at that place. A rail road across a farm I consider an unfortun ate circumstance, since the ut most care will not ensure safe ty. A heavy body moving over a space of 20 miles per hour can not be harmless; and what parent, having a family of children residing near a rail road, can feel at ease? or unconcerned for his little ones?
Rail road acci dent	
Re marks	
10	<u>Sunday</u> m clody & rain wind N rain and day wholly cloudy & cold and a fire necessary in my room, as has been the case since spring commenced, excepting two or three days.
11	<u>Monday</u> m. fair wind NE day fair but sky hazy; wind changed to South

- June  
12      Tuesday m. fair, wind NE  
and the sky covered with its  
usual haze. Wrote a letter to  
son Arthur at Burlington con  
taining remarks on rail roads  
unfavorable to their multiplica  
tion beyond the demands of trade,  
which is evidently the case, with  
some now projected.
- 13      Wednesday m. fair, wind S.E.  
PM became cloudy with cool air  
and wind S & SW. Seldom a  
day passes without clouds, or a  
thick spread haze, over the sky, which  
keeps the sun's rays from the ground,  
and hence the cool season. Wea  
have experienced during the season.  
If atmosphere phenomena has not  
varied, essentially, since I was young,  
then I am under a mistake. In  
our thunder showers there is little  
similarity, and the change is ve  
ry shocking; electricity seems to  
have become, in a degree, tranquil,  
and very little therefore has oc  
curred for several years past.
- 14      Thursday m. fair, wind SW  
day hazy Rode to Bloody  
Brook Cool air for season.

June  
15

Friday M. clody wind  
SW and the air warmer  
than usual this season with S wind  
PM The Cholera is making progress  
to the north In New-York are  
many cases, a few at Albany & Troy  
and three or four at Boston. The  
disease is probably atmospheric  
but of the peculiar state of the air  
we know nothing for certainty.  
That the atmosphere should va  
ry its proportion of oxygen & [ ]  
at different times, seems not  
improbable; and it is supposed  
that if the former ever reduced  
much below its usual proportion  
sickness would be [ ] general.  
By what process of the Grand Labor  
tory of nature, this proportion is kept  
up; we know not; but like other  
fixed provisions of nature, we must  
attribute it to superior power.  
“To thee whose temple is all space  
Whose alter, earth Sea, skys  
One chorus let all beings raise  
all nature’s incense rise!”<sup>21</sup>

16

Saturday m. cloudy, some rain  
wind SW the day (PM) fair wind NW  
David S. Hoyt’s parents have  
received a letter from him dated  
at Chester in the County of Randolph

---

<sup>21</sup> Alexander Pope, *Universal Prayer*



June  
16  
D.S. }  
Hoyts }  
loca }  
tion }

Illinois dated June 1849.  
where he has located his land  
warrant on a tract some distance  
from the village It has been par  
tially cleared, lies some distance  
from the Mississippi, which it  
overlooks from an elevation. The  
selection I think a good one, un  
less it is too far south, being near  
the mouth of Kaskaskia river.  
He says he met the Cholera at  
Chicago and passed through it  
until he reached St. Louis on the  
eve of the Great Fever at that place.  
He thinks his location a healthy  
one and where the cholera will  
not prevail. The position is 35  
or 40 miles above the mouth of the  
Ohio, but not prairie but still  
very fertile: the Latitude about  
37°..30' N., or about west of Richmond  
in Virginia. A latitude perhaps  
as favorable to health as ours.  
though probably more liable  
to fevers and bilious diseases.  
I recommend a more northerly climate  
but he had an aversion to winter  
climates. His tract contains 160 acres,  
or a quarter section, bounded by lines  
of Latitude & meridians. An excellent  
method of laying out lands, more a  
dopted by the United States gov  
ernment.  
A farm of this extent, with in  
dustry, economy, and good health  
cannot fail to render its possession  
independent; & ~~happy~~ if of a

- June  
10 well informed and duly regulated mind, happy.  
No state in the Union embraces so much fertile sort as Illinois; but at present the climate is rather unfavorable to health, and probably will so continue until it cleared and cultivated to a considerable extent, and its miasma reduced when the air will become sa [ ]; but years will elapse before this will take place.  
This unhealthiness of the Country is a check to emigration from the Northern states; And [ ] is the public debt of the State, which will for some time render [ ] tax offensive, and ought not to have been incurred by a young state.
- 17 Sunday m fair, wind N.E.  
And day generally clear from haziness. At sun set the haze appeared, and the air became cool.
- 18 Monday m. fair, wind SW, and NW sky pretty clear during the day.
- 19 Tuesday m fair, wind SW  
and day fair but scattering clouds  
Dr Hitchcock, President of Amherst College, sends me Squires and Davis Ancient monuments of the Mississippi Valley. 1 Vol. 4 to. for perusal.

The

June  
19

The work is published by the Smithsonian Institute as its 1<sup>st</sup> Vol of Contribution to Knowledge and contains numerous plates & wood cuts. This work will afford abundant proof, that a race of men once dwelt in our western country far advanced, in Arts, to the race of Indians, that were found on the first discovery of America. But granting this, nothing has yet been discovered of their works which places them so high in the arts as the Aztecs of Mexico at the period of Cortes conquest. The work of Messers Squires & Davis, probably will furnish the most light on the history, we can obtain: it is interesting & valuable and evinces much research, and is a happy selection for the first vol of the "Smithsonian Contribution to Knowledge"

20

Wednesday m. cloudy, wind W. but soon fair, the day fair with summer air & cumulous clouds. The Sun has reached it greatest north declination ( $23^{\circ}$ ,  $27'$ ) & sets  $7^{\text{h}}..38^{\text{m}}$  in our Lat. Busy in looking over Squires & Davis book. One fort they state new to me. It appears that the ancient people of the west made use of copper instruments such as axes chisel &c. which are found in the mounds. As well

- June  
20 those of stones the metal they  
suppos was procured in the vicini  
ty of Lake Superior, and hardened  
by hammering, and was a pretty  
good substitute for iron, which it  
pears was not in use by them  
The mounds, fortifications &c found  
in the United States are more  
numerous than I had supposed and  
on no part were they so abundant  
as in the State of Ohio The vallies  
of Scioto and Miami exhibit the  
greatest number The work of these  
gentlemen may rouse an extensive  
spirit of inquiry, and other  
antiquities may be brought to light  
in our western regions.
- 21 Thursday m. fair, wind N.  
and of proper summer day  
A few shad were taken yesterday, in  
the Connecticut at Montague. But  
the fishing on the river, above South Ha  
ley is of little worth
- 22 Friday m. fair, wind NW  
& changeable to SW & SE, Sky  
hazy and air hot. The change  
from cool to hot weather is sudden  
and unfavorable to laborers who  
are not cautious in their exertions  
Some of the Irish laborers at the  
New

June  
22

New City we learn, have died with heat. Will not this sudden change promote cholera?~

The work of Squires & Davis on the ancient monuments of the Mississippi Valley engages my attention. The works have heretofore been supposed to be military defences but they say but a part are of this character while others were connected with the superstitions of the builders, or designed for other purposes not readily apparent. See page 8<sup>th</sup>: See also Chap. 3, page 47. This division of the work appears to me to be appropriate and necessary in studying them. Both however must have acquired considerate art as well as a numerous population for their construction. Nothing certain can be determined as to the period of their construction, and it maybe a thousand or two thousand years ago.—perhaps a more remote period. The subject is highly interesting and the two gentlemen who have furnished the Vol. deserve the thanks of men of enlarged views in [ ] of general knowledge. To the English reader it is gratifying to connect with a work in his vernacular tongue, which he may recall and comprehend. Contrary  
to

- to the practice and pedantic taste  
 of the purely Literary men of the  
 present day. Messrs Squires & Davis  
 have given us a work, divested of  
 the Babel confusion of uncouth terms  
 culled from the Greek & Latin languag  
 es, so fashionable at this time, which  
 obfuscates instead of rendering, clear  
 the subjects treated of, as is  
 seen in many of the modern  
 works on natural history—which  
 little more than mere collection of  
 unintelligible technology.
- 22 June  
 22 to the practice and pedantic taste  
 of the purely Literary men of the  
 present day. Messrs Squires & Davis  
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 the Babel confusion of uncouth terms  
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 es, so fashionable at this time, which  
 obfuscates instead of rendering, clear  
 the subjects treated of, as is  
 seen in many of the modern  
 works on natural history—which  
 little more than mere collection of  
 unintelligible technology.
- 23 Saturday m. fair, wind SW. W  
 day fair, hot, but less so after  
 sun set.
- 24 Sunday. m fair, wind NE &  
 changed to SW. PM cloudy;  
 and night some rain fell;  
 the air moderately warm.  
 Thermometer is said to have  
 been up to 95 degrees during  
 the few hot days past
- 25 Monday m fair, wind West  
 the day fair & pretty hot. Air  
 Farmers commence haying.
- 26 Tuesday. m. fair, wind S.W.  
 day fine & pleasantly warm
- 27 Wednesday m. fair, wind NE  
 and the day fair  
 The number of ancient works noted  
 by Squiers and Davis is truly sur  
 prising

June  
27

prising. They say “not for 53 from 100 enclosures of various sizes, and 500 mounds, are found in Ross County, Ohio. The number of tumuli in the State may be safely estimated at ten thousand and the number of enclosures at 1000 or 1500. Many of them are small, but cannot be omitted in an enumeration. They are scarcely less numerous on the Kanhawwa in Virginia, than on the Scioto & Miamis; and are abundant on the White river & Wabash, as also upon the Kentucky, Cumberland, Tennessee, and the numerous other tributaries of the Ohio and Mississippi.

Nor is their magnitude less a matter of remark than their great number. Lines of the embankments, varying in height from 5 to 30 feet, and enclosing areas from one to fifty acres, are common; while enclosures of 100 or 200 acres area are far from infrequent. Occasional works are found in closing as many as four hundred acres, See page 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

Until the two gentlemen wrote their work no systematic accounts were before the public, which might be considered full & satisfactory. We

now

June  
27

now possess a standard work in which we may rely with confidence, and the Smithsonian Institution could not have commenced its "Contributions to Knowledge" with one more interesting in relation to the history of our western country.

The annual income of Mr Smithson's bequest is estimated at thirty thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars, one had to be appropriated to research and publications in a series of Vol. under the title of "Smithsonian Contributions of Knowledge" the other half to the gradual formation of a Library, Museum, and a Gallery of Arts.

It is proposed also to publish occasionally separate treatises on subjects of general interest.

The plan appears favorable to the diffusion of knowledge; and it is hoped the Society will be moderate in its appropriation for the requisite buildings, and avoid the extravagant expense now so common in building of this kind. Let them be convenient & durable and their ornaments found in the healthy operation of the society.



June  
27

Under the generous donation of Mr Smithson the Society can not fail of usefulness if the members are lovers of science and pursue it with commendable zeal.

The following officers of the General Government are members Ex Officio.

The President of the U States, Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War Secretary of the Navy, Post Master General Attorney General, Chief Justice Commissioner of patents, Mayor of the City of Washington.

The Board of Regents consists of three members, ex officio, of the establishment. Viz. Vice President of the U States the Chief Justice of the U.S. and the Mayor of Washington, together with 12 other members, three from the Senate, three from the House of Representatives, and six citizens appointed by a joint resolution of both houses.

At the time of the first publication 110 primary members, had been elected.

28

Thursday m. cloudy, some rain, and wind NE; the day continued cloudy and the air cool

June  
28

In the work of Squires and Davis we find no certain data for determining the age of the forts and mounds described but sufficient is seen to prove them very old.

Fort Hill plate 5 at page 14, they say has an area of not far from 50 acres, and is covered with a heavy primitive forest of gigantic trees. One of those a Chesnut standing on the embankment, measures 21 feet in circumference; another an oak which stood on the wall though now fallen and much decayed still measures 23 feet in circumference. All around are scattered the trunks of numerous trees in every stage of decay; the interior forrest presenting an appearance of the highest antiquity. Actual observation showed the existence of not less than 200 annual rings, or layers, to the foot, in the large Chesnut mentioned, now standing upon the entrenchments These would give nearly 600 years as the age of the tree. If to this we add the probable period intervening from the time of the building of the work to its abundance

June  
28

and the subsequent period up to the time of its invasion by the forrest, we are led irresistably to the conclusion, that it has an antiquity of at least one thousand years. But when we notice all around us the crumbling trunks of trees half hidden in the accumulating soil we are induced to fix upon an antiquity more remote.”

One fact I think is established namely: that a numerous people once inhabited our western regions, who were far advanced in arts to the Indians known to Europeans since the discovery of America by Columbus. the cause of whose decline can only be conjectured. But in all the discoveries made, no stone or other permanent edifices have been found as in Mexico and Guatemala. If they resided in clustered towns the edifices would have been constructed of wood or other perishable materials. In some of the [ ] works stones were used in the embankments but none shewing marks of the chisel; and of the structure was composed of timber, which has perished, leaving no traces of its existence.

- In the construction of some of the works, vast labor must have been bestowed, as well as considerable skill, embracing some of the principles of geometry, as in tracing large circles, squares, parallelograms, and regular polygons on the ground. But whatever skill be granted to the mound builders, no unequivocal indications are found to show that they possessed the art, even of pictographic writing
- June 28
- 29 Friday m cloudy with rain & NE wind  
PM partially fair clear  
day at night.
- 30 Saturday m cloudy wind  
SW; most of the day fair and cool
- July 1 Sunday m. cloudy soon  
fair, & wind NE, the day fair  
with cool air, rendering a  
room fire necessary for comfort.
- 2 Monday m fair, wind NE  
& cold. The day was hazy & cool  
as has generally been the case this  
season, & without the occurring and real  
thunder shower.

July  
2

A New-York City paper of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. says  
 “The Boston & Worcester Railroad Company have declared a sum annual dividend of three per cent. The dividends of nearly all the New England rail-roads are falling off, and this kind of property is rapidly depreciating. in all parts of the country. The time is not far distant when rail roads will be considered the poorest investments in the market. The Worcester rail road used to be a regular 8 per cent stock; but the capital has increased so rapidly, that its dividends have become reduced to 6 percent. Competition, extravagance, and the employment of the property of stock holders for private purposes, will soon bankrupt many companies which are now solvent.”  
 The New-York & Erie rail road, it says  
 “cannot raise the sums to continue much longer. A suspension is the only thing that will save it from irretrievable bankruptcy.”  
 This is rather a repulsive picture, and whether the writer has assigned the true cause of the sickly aspect is doubtful. I should attribute it to the multiplication of the roads, beyond the demand, of trade and travel.

July  
2

That some of the roads recently completed will sicken and die from want of support is evident, while others projected will never be commenced is as certain. The above writer evinces that that New York and Erie rail roads, will prove as great a bubble as did those of the Reading rail road stock previous to the grand smash of that concern. The truth is, rail roads in the northern states have come to a crisis, and but a very few more will be constructed; and the people will learn that the cultivation of their farms, with [     ], is their true interests. How idle then, to talk of a rail road from Greenfield to Troy through Hoosac mountain on borrowed capital! I am not unfriendly to rail roads, but I would restrict him to the great arteries of trade instead of the accommodation of a few interior towns when available money would not construct a sixth part of the road through them.

In short a rail road through a mere agricultural town is of little advantage to the farmers, and in some cases is a nuisance anywhere they divide farms, creating dangerous crossings from which accidents are almost constantly occurring.

- July  
3      Tuesday m. fair, wind NW  
& cool air the day partially  
fair, and rather cool  
Our farmers are busy at haying  
but the weather rather unfavora  
ble.
- 4      Wednesday. m cloudy, but son  
fair, wind N. and the day was  
generally fair & cool  
A celebration of the day is to be held  
at Northampton in which fire  
works are to be exhibited in the  
evening. Their celebrations are now  
of little or no use: in general they  
are designed to promote a spirit  
of political parties without a [    ]  
of the public welfare. Innkeepers,  
traders and stage & rail road companies,  
may feel an interest in them, but  
the farmer is better employed in per  
suing his usual business at home;  
and in no way can he show his  
love of liberty as by his industry  
and economy.
- We learn that the stockholders of the Vermont  
Massachusetts Railroad have voted  
to issue Bonds sufficient to pay the  
debts of the corporation, and to build  
the road into Greenfield, and Montague  
the road to the bond holders for low security  
The amount of bonds issued to be about  
one million dollars and to run six years.  
This is a new mode of building these  
roads, and the public will judg of its success.

July  
 5 Thursday m. cloudy, wind NE  
 and a cloudy day & cool  
 For several past days I have found  
 a fire necessary in my room, and  
 the remarkable haziness of the upper  
 atmosphere generally continues.  
 without the appearance of a  
 thunder cloud. Does not this  
 hazy state of the atmosphere keep elec  
 tricity in a repose as in a damp  
 room where an electrical machine work  
 but partly or not at all, from a  
 want of insulation? At this sea  
 son, when the atmosphere is clear, [   ]  
 [   ] a brisk southerly wind prevails  
 we may look for thunder showers  
 But in a reverse condition of the  
 atmosphere, they rarely occur.  
 6 Friday. m. fair, wind SW.  
 the day fair but scattering clouds  
 Tax } Mr Fulton our Collector, presents  
 es } taxes for the year  
 Viz Son Arthur       \$1485  
       My own             4.88  
                               Total    19.73  
 7 Saturday m fair, wind SW  
 but became cloudy PM  
 In noticing the weather I use the term  
 cloudy when perhaps the term haze  
 would be more appropriate. It often



July happens that cloudness consists  
 7 of a haziness spread over the heavens  
 without a detached or insulated  
 cloud appears, and none having  
 the least aspect of what we form  
 ally called thunder heads; attend  
 ed with lighting and followed  
 by violent falls of rain  
 8 Sunday m fair, wind N. the  
 day fair, & [    ], & wind changed  
 to SW.

The Cholera we learn is mak  
 ing fastest progress in some of  
 the large towns on the Mississippi  
 and Ohio, and also in New York  
 and Philadelphia & some other  
 places. In Boston but five cases  
 have occurred. Neither the cause  
 in the mode of cure is known  
 In Europe the disease is said to  
 prevail especially in England, Scotland & France  
 and most fatally in Paris. In  
 the United States New-Orleans, St  
 Louis, Cincinnati, and the City of  
 New York have thus far suffered  
 the greatest loss of people; but sev  
 ral small towns have lost many  
 The disease is said to have originat  
 ed in Hindustan near the Ganges about  
 20 years ago, & thence spread over over  
 the world. Whether it is produced

9

10

11

12

Thursday m fair, wind SW  
and day hot and free from  
clouds, entirely so, but the  
sky hazy. We see notices of  
the collection at Saratoga Springs  
and of all the extravagances of the  
wild multitude. Several cases  
of the cholera have there occurred  
but this endeavored to be kept from  
the public, or in fact, denied as it  
would be ruinous to the boarding [ ]  
[ ]

- July  
12 Trips are occasionally made to Lake George & notices of the old classic ground taken; but in general they are extremely in accurate, if not contrary to fact. A minute history of the military operations in the country between the village of Stillwater on the Hudson, and Crown point, on Lake Champlain, would fill a volume with interesting matter, with which few seem to be acquainted at this day.
- 13 Friday m. fair, wind W & air hot. the day continued fair, clear & especially hot thermometer at 96 yesterday but no indication of thunder showers. During this electrical calm are we to suppose the electrical element is diminished on an equilibrium is by some means maintained? as in a calm like whence every position is equally charged, as induced the contiguous country, if the land lie moist and of course a construction of electricity. Dry atmospheric air is a non conductor of electricity, hence bodies suspended in it may be charged plus or minus; but let this insulating property

July  
 13      cease and electrical phenomena  
          would also cease. And  
          what would be the consequences  
          of a complete equilibrium of the [    ]  
          [    ] in all parts of earth and  
          the atmosphere we are unable to say.  
          Perhaps the [    ] [    ] in  
          the atmosphere used essential to the  
          health of animals residing on the sur  
          face of the earth, and a proof of the  
          wisdom of Providence.

14      Saturday. m. cloudy (thick)  
          wind brisk at NE of course a cool  
          er air than the two past days  
          which were excessively hot, the  
          day partly fair and air pleasant.  
          A Letter from my friends at  
          Burlington which represents the place  
          rather sickly with the Old [    ]  
          [    ], and a case or two of the  
          Asiatic supposed brought by the steam  
          boats, but disputed by the inhab  
          itants of the place. But it will be  
          extraordinary of the place has no cases  
          of the fatal disease, since it is situated  
          on our extended fresh water lake &  
          on the direct communication below New  
          York & Montreal at both which the  
          disease prevails  
          In the war of 1812 this place proved  
          very unhealthy to our troops stationed  
          there

Letter  
 from    }  
 my       }  
 friends }

- July  
15      Sunday m. fair, wind NW  
day fair & cold air. Indeed  
a fire in my room would be  
comfortable, why these sud  
den changes of temperature?  
while the sun's altitude remains  
nearly the same? Thursday &  
Friday were especially hot, &  
at 4 PM this day, I kindled  
a fire in my room. These chang  
es of temperature indicate a des  
cent of the upper part of the at  
mosphere from some course not at  
once evident. The wind in  
the afternoon changed to N.E. and  
the sky became hazy. The total  
absence of thunder showers must be  
obvious to all observers of meteor  
ological phenomena.
- 16      Monday m. fair, wind NE: the  
day fair, but with the usual hazi  
ness and air cool.  
Electricity & Cholera A letter is  
inserted in our papers, purporting  
to be from an ancient physician of  
Paris (Arodrand) to the French Acade  
my of Sciences in relation this subject.  
The Doctor says he has and excellent  
electric machine, which has [    ]  
daily

July  
16

daily in order to satisfy himself whether there is not a fixed connection between the intensity of that scourge ~~and~~ and the absence of the [ ] fluid usually diffused through out the atmosphere. The letter is dated Paris, June 10<sup>th</sup>, and inscribed in the Boston Journal July 12<sup>th</sup> & N York Herald. The writer, Dr Audrand, (see the letter [ ]) says the machine which has been the object of my daily observation is a very powerful one; at ordinary times it throws off after two or three turns of the wheel [ ] sparks from two to two and a half inches in length. I at first observed that from the commencement of the [ ] it was impossible for me to produce this result once. During this of April & May the sparks obtained with great difficulty, never exceeded seven tenths of an inch, and their variations agreed very closely with the irregularities of the cholera. But believing it possible that the variable moisture of the atmosphere might have caused the irregularities of the marker the Dr writes the coming fine weather and heat to continue his observations with more certainty. Heat & fine weather at length came, and to his amusement the machine though often repaired to [ ] [ ] as it should in [ ] of electricity only gave more & more feeble indications of it, to such a degree, that during the days of the 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of June it was [ ]

July  
16

to obtain any thing more than slight cracklings without sparks and at length on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the machine remained entirely silent. This new decrease of the electrical field coincided perfectly with the violence of the cholera. For my part I felt appalled rather than surprised. my conviction was fixed, and I saw in it but the result of a clearly established fact. At length, on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, feeble sparks appeared, their intensity increased from hour to hour, and I perceived with joy that the life giving fluid was returning into the atmospheric void. Towards evening a storm announced to Paris that electricity had reached its domains in my view, the cholera was vanishing with the cause that produces it. The next day the 9<sup>th</sup> my experiments were continued, and every thing had returned to its proper condition, the machine at the slightest touch threw out brilliant sparks with ease. Dr Audrand advances the following theory: Nature has imposed into the atmosphere a mass of electricity contributing to the service & support of life. If by any means the mass of electricity is diminished and sometimes decreased even to exhaustion what follows? Every one suffers—those who carry within a sufficient supply of electricity withstand it; those who can live only by borrowing electricity from the common mass, perish with the exhaustion of the mass.                      Whether

July  
16

Whether the Doctors experiments furnish a basis sufficient for a theory may be doubted; and with out knowledge of the electric fluid and its laws, it would be rash to attempt an explanation of its phenomena. The Dr. supposes also that not only the cholera, but perhaps other diseases that at intervals affect us are from the same cause. The [ ] not known seem to be accurate. Absence of thunder storms which I have noticed for several past years & particularly the present. And whether this absence denotes a diminution of the electric element in the atmosphere, or only a quiescent state of it, from an alteration of the insulating power of the air, is a question To suppose that animal matter without insulation is differently [ ] ed is contrary to the Franklinian theory, or that which supposes two electric fluids to exist

17

Tuesday m. fair, but the sky hazy with SW wind. of moderate temperature, the day the same Canadian accounts indicate a disposition in the people to become an independent ~~people~~ or of uniting with us. Probably one or the other will ultimately take place. the power of Great Britain seems in the decline and her monstrous public debt must prove her ruin In the present condition of Europe the



July  
17

the British provinces may separate from from the mother country almost without a struggle. To maintain a war in America would endanger her own existence in Europe, and this she seems to be sensible. Divest of her debt she might continue a powerful nation for many years; but undo it, war effort must be paralyzed, and some future Gibb will write her downfall. But whether her fall will be a benefit to the world is a question not readily answered. Such a fall would produce a horrible gap in the arts and sciences, and much that is now valuable would be ameliorated. France has assumed the name of a Republic, but she seems to possess but little of the elements of a free government; and her government to sustained by a large military force The other nations of Europe are tottering on their old bases, and what will be the result we know not. The remaining scrap of old- Rome strikes for liberty, but even the free government of France opposes it. Can a greater anomaly be presented? That hostility of Austria & Russia is perfectly consistent with the principles of their governments but France cannot mount a plausible plea for her course

July  
18

Wednesday m fair, wind SW  
the day fair & sky hazy.  
Bad paper, bad ink, bad pens,  
and my impaired sight, almost in  
duce me to suspend my journal  
and remarks; but as I find no  
substitute amusement in my lonely hours, ex  
cept in reading, which is not with  
out difficulty, I shall continue  
my scribbling bad as it is, but  
I would not impose on no one, the  
task of perusing the [     ]~

On consulting the map of the U.  
States, it appears that the cholera  
is most prevalent along the large  
sluggish river & lakes in the interior of the  
country, while on the sea coast  
it is found of less extent, with  
the exception of the City of New-York.  
On the coast of the southern States  
and among the West-India Islands  
we hear little of it, thus far.  
New-York is situated on a large  
flat river, and has a great population  
and the like is the case with Phila  
delphia. Is not then, the saline  
property of the ocean a preventative  
to the disease?

Boston, as yet, has had but a few  
cases and it has but a small  
river contiguous. If population  
were the sole cause of the disease  
it would be difficult to account  
for its exemption from the disease.

In Europe I believe the disease  
prevails

July  
18

prevails mostly in the interior of the countries, as in Paris, and we may look for it in London and other large cities, at a distance from the sea coast.

In some of our western states contiguous to the Mississippi, Ohio and their confluent waters, and also on the shores of the great Lakes, The disease is prevalent, A low Latitude seems not to necessary for its production, for we hear nothing of it in southern Mexico, or the West Indies.

Whether these considerations afford a basis on which to found a theory of cholera I know not. but I am inclined to believe they afford a clue at best.

Should it prove a fact that the country contiguous to our great western rivers & lakes, are liable to this destructive disease, it will be a great misfortune, and a bar to the settlement of populous cities in that region, now so eagerly sought.

A more particular history of the progress of the disease is necessary, before we can arrive at a theory of the disease. Two facts however, seem to be established.

1<sup>st</sup> That places situated on the borders of large lakes and extended rivers, flowing through flat countries, even with a sparse population, are liable to the disease.

2<sup>nd</sup> That when these places are settled with a numerous population

July  
18

they are sure of a visit of the disease in its periodical returns.

What may be the intervals of these periods we have yet to learn. But with our present knowledge of Atmospheric laws, we can see nothing which would assign long intervals to these periods, nor that they may not be come annual.

At the time of the cholera in 1832 and 1833 New-England generally escaped the malady; but whether it will be so favored at this return, time alone can determine. She has a large river, but of a character very different from those of our western country, as it abounds in falls and in rapid currents, still in its lower section its character is somewhat similar to the western rivers; and perhaps populous cities on its banks might be afflicted like New-York.

These conjectures may be considered as crude and hasty, but that they are not destitute of probability will appear from an inspection of a map of the United States, and an examination of the progress of the cholera, as given in our papers.

19

Thursday m. fair, wind SW the sky hazy and the day fair throughout & pretty warm. Not a cloud indicating a shower to be seen. Certainly a singular state of the atmosphere if not unprecedented.

July  
19

For several past days  
my friends have omitted their  
calls, and I am hardly able  
to keep par passe with the  
topics of the times. Have I  
become unsocial and uninter  
esting? If so, I hope they will  
bare with my imperfections, and  
infirmities, and at least accord  
me good intentions. Cut off as  
I am in some degree, from  
my resources in Books, I feel  
the want of enlightened con  
versation and social inter  
course. Important subjects for  
conversation now present on all  
sides, and no patriot can feel  
indifferent to passing events, both  
political and philosophical.

20

Friday m. cloudy or hazy,  
wind SW but the sun soon out.  
day generally fair.  
Rode to Greenfield, performed some busi  
ness, and took a view of the in  
habitants of the village. New streets  
are laid out, many new buildings  
are seen and others construct  
ing, and the population increase  
ing; I found the roads very dry  
& dirty, & of course the ride rather unpleas  
ant. though gratifying to my curiosity.  
The place bids fair to become one of con  
siderable business & and population.

- July  
20 At Greenfield I received from the treasure (~~\$14.25~~) of a saving bank as a premium up to the 3d Wednesday of July, \$11.25 cents, [       ] my deposit \$30, making \$41.25 leaving \$420 in deposit. (420) The annual interest of which at 5 per cent is \$21.
- It is pleasing to notice the ease and system with which Mr. Ripley, the Treasurer, performs the functions of his office. When such men are in place public confidence is strong & safe, and utopian schemes are ably estimated~
- In the afternoon clouds appeared in the west indicating a shower and gave us some thunder but at sun set no rain had fallen
- 21 Saturday. m. partially fair wind SW, a sprinkling rain last night.
- The clouds this day partake [    ] of the stratus & nimbus aspects than for some time past when a hazy vapor prevailed; and during the afternoon they gave us a sprinkling of rain with some lightning—the clouds in overspreading on us.
- 22 Sunday m fair, wind SW, day fair & agreeable air; the sky almost free from clouds.

July  
23 Monday m. fair, wind N and  
day fair & pretty hot. PM some  
detached clouds, but no showers oc  
curred and the ground is very dry.

24 Tuesday m. fair wind NW  
but soon changed to SW and the day  
was fair, almost without a cloud  
but a hazyness of the sky still con  
tinues, which seems to prevent the  
formation of cumulous clouds the  
precursors of thunder showers.  
not one of which of the old cha  
racter has occurred in our village.  
this season, and so remarkable  
is this absence of thunder storms  
that I have noticed the fact for  
several years past. Young men  
are not aware of the change in  
the frequency & violence of old  
thunder storms, and when I de  
scribe them I have often witnessed  
they think me dealing in romance.  
This absence of thunder storms, I  
think does not prove a dimu  
nation of the quality of the electric  
fluid of the earth and atmosphere  
but only loss causes of the dis  
turbance of its equilibrium. In hot  
moist air an electric machine oper  
ates feebly, or not at all; not from  
the want of the fluid, but from the  
want of an insulating power in the  
air. As Dr Audbrand remarked,

preceding pages of my journal.  
 Different theories of Electricity  
 have been advanced since  
 our Franklin gave his to the world  
 But after perusing these writings  
 I must say that none appear  
 so natural and satisfactory as  
 that of this accurate observer  
 of nature. If some of the pheno  
 mena of electricity clash with his  
 theory, so do ~~they with~~ others  
 that have been advanced. The theory  
 of two kinds of electricity, the vitreous  
 and resinous, has always ap  
 peared to me anomalous, and  
 far more defective than that of  
 Franklin, which supposes a plus  
 or minus, as in other words, a  
positive & negative state of the elec  
 tric fluid. That his theory will  
 explain all the phenomena of electric  
 city is not pretended; but in  
 this respect it appears to approach  
 as near as that of any other.  
 In July 1747 Franklin com  
 municated his thoughts with some  
 experiments, on electricity to Peter  
 Collinson F.R.S. London, and con  
 tinued to correspond with the Gentle  
 man for several years after.  
 The letters of Franklin were Mr Col  
 linson gave a collection of them to the  
 European public under the title of  
Experiments and observations on  
Electricity made at Philadelphia in

July  
24

A.

Elec  
trical  
theo  
ries }

Frank  
lins }



- b. America by Benjamin Franklin Esq. and communicated in several Letters to Mr Collinson Esqr of London F.R.S. which passed through several editions which were actively read in Europe and roused the attention of electrical philosophers to the subject. To the Preface to the work it is he (with Franklin) exhibits to our consideration, an invisible subtle matter [ ] through all notice, in various propositions equally unobserved, and [ ] to all those bodies to which it particularly achieves, are alike charged with it, inoffensive. He shows however, that if any unequal distribution is by any means brought about, if there is a [ ] in one part of space, a loss proportion [ ] ity or want in another, by the near approach of a body capable of conducting the [ ] part to the emptier space, it becomes perhaps the most formidable and irresistible agent in the Universe.” What agency [ ] electricity on animal life, and whether essential to its continuance we know not. [ ] atmosphere air being a conductor, we can conceive that vapour suspended in it, may be uniquely charged with the fluid; but no known laws of electricity enable us to account for a deviation or vicinity in the earth & its water

July  
25

H Col  
mans  
new  
work

Wednesday m. partially cloudy  
wind NW; the sky soon became clear  
and the day fair, till late PM

European Life and Manners in 2

vols. by Henry Colman is adver  
tised in the papers. From the  
opportunity Mr Colman has had  
of collecting matter for such a work  
I think it may be interesting,  
and I had anticipated a work  
of this kind from his pen. The  
price is not given.

Rail Roads The Central road up  
white river to Montpelier we are informed  
is so far completed that trains reach  
that place from Boston; and the  
rail road from Burlington via Rutland  
and mount Holley to Bellows falls  
is fast progressing. When the two  
roads are completed, they will become  
rival routes, and one will be pre  
ferred to the other; the latter I am in  
formed is the shortest to Boston. The  
former was traversed by Parson Willi  
ams & other Deerfield captives in 1704  
and the latter by our scouts & cap  
tives in the war of 1744. In 1759  
a road was partially constructed from  
Lake Champlain, and mount Holley  
and down black river valley to Charles  
ton on the Connecticut, & troops, and  
military stores past on the route.  
Excepting mount holley this is a  
pretty level route, well known to  
the Canada Indians who often  
traversed it, on their expeditions.

July  
25

Of the proposed rail road  
from Greenfield to Troy we  
hear little, other than that an  
engineer has been employed on  
selecting a location, embracing a  
tunnel through Hoosac mountain, a project perfectly utopian  
[—], and not to be entertained for  
a moment but by the wildest imagination.

26

Thursday. m cloudy, wind SW  
and slight sprinkling of rain;  
the day generally cloudy. Sun out before night  
During the 24 hours ending June  
23, at 12 M. 79 new cases of the cholera  
occurred and 38 deaths according to the  
report of the Mayors office, While  
the disease thus rages in the city of  
New-York, it is scarcely seen at  
Boston. The cause of this difference  
in the two places presents an important  
question to scientific physicians  
and natural philosophers.  
In seeking for the cause of the disease  
neither the latitude, temperature  
or even filthiness is to be relied on,  
though probably the latter may be  
in existing cause where the peculiar  
diathesis exists; for it presents  
on the Rio Grand, the Mississippi,  
Ohio, Illinois, Wabash and on the  
borders of the great lakes; and also  
on the St. Lawrence in upper and  
lower Canada, as well as on the Hudson  
& Delaware all except at New-York, at a distance from  
the sea coast.

July  
27

Friday. m. fair, wind NW, the day fair, but with its usual hazyness. Cholera at N. York: Mayor office July 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 M. Cases reported 131 and 39 deaths as having occurred the last 24 hours. The disease made its appearance at Providence RI on the 20<sup>th</sup> instant since which 20 cases—14 deaths have been reported. Boston continues pretty free from the cholera: At Albany and West Troy it prevails to a considerable extent; and Troy, Lansingburgh and Waterford will probably undergo the calamity.

Short Tours. At this season it is common to see in our papers, sketches of short tours into the interior of the country by young men of independent circumstance; and I notice several written at Caldwell on Lake George and Old Ticonderoga. But in general the writers are so little acquainted with the old military operation in that section of country, that they pass over the sites of battles & skirmishes without knowing, they are on the grounds where their Grand Fathers bled & died in the

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~~Book, seen a Review of it, or any printed notice whatever though I had been informed, by a friend, that such a work had, been published.~~

July  
27

the defence of their country & their bones rest in obscurity. In the country extending from the village of Stillwater, on the Hudson, to Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, scarcely a mile can be found on which some thrilling event has occurred, either in the French war of 1755 or that of our Revolution. These sites should be preserved from oblivion. My acquaintance with many officers & soldiers who served the campaigns & their journals and letters written on the ground at the time, enable me to point out the sites with certainty, which I have done in several critical reconnaissances of the country much with old manuscript journals, letters & sketches of the actors of the scenes; in my hands The country from Glens Falls village to Lake George presents nothing interesting to the young travelers, while the well informed antiquary of a military taste, will meet with old scenes of the most interesting character; and among others the ground where Baron Dieskau's French and Indians ambuscaded the detachment of 1200 men under Col. Ephraim Williams, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1755. When I last visited it in 1740<sup>22</sup>, part of the ground was still covered with its native woods This place is about 3 miles south of Lake George and may be known by an elevation of the ground south of Rocky Brook about a third of a mile south

---

<sup>22</sup> Probably 1840

- July  
27 of Bloody Pond. The action commenced on this elevated ground, and continued along the old road to General Johnsons camp at the south end of the Lake, where the general action took place, on the ground where the ruins of fort George are now seen. For details of these actions see my Antiquarian Researches, page 272 et seq. This affair was long known by the name of the Bloody Morning Scout, in which many people of the old County of Hampshire, in Massachusetts lost their dearest friends. Tourists at this time, should be informed that the present road from Bloody Pond to the lake, passing through a vally, is a recent one, some distance east of the old one, on which Williams defeated troops fought on the retreat. Other alterations have been made on the road from this battle ground to Glenns Falls. A plain monument to mark the ground of this ambushade, would be gratifying to the tourist.
- 28 Saturday m. fair, but hazy wind NW  
PM sky clouded entirely, but clear before sun set excepting the usual haziness
- 29 Sunday m. fair, wind SW; air moderately warm, and the day fair and pretty clear  
The accounts of the Cholera still continue alarming in the middle & western states as well as in Canada; but it is said that it is on the decline at St Louis & Cincinnati.

- July  
29 In New England it has, as yet made but small progress, and Boston has had but a few cases. Some have occurred at Providence RI  
The ground here is very dry and in Vermont the drought is said to be severe and unprecedented.
- 30 Monday. m fair, wind SW, and day fair and clear & warm
- 31 Tuesday m fair, wind SW and warm air. The sky soon became shrouded with dense vapor and at noon we had some thunder and sprinkling of rain. The day continued overspread, but little rain fell.  
Dr. Charles D Meigs of Philadelphia has printed at his own expense a pamphlet of 68 pages on the Spasmodic Cholera and distributed among his brethren of his profession. It bears date July 10<sup>th</sup> 1849. The work covers much knowledge of the subject as well medical science, and I think deserves the attention of his medical brethren  
The [—] he says in the Cholera in its first stage and is then curable by proper treatment, and only in this stage

July  
31

Dr Meigs recommends the following Anaesthetic Pills composed of

Sulphate of morphine	5 grams
Camphor	20 do
Cajeput oil	10 drops

Tragacanth & Extract of Genti a sufficient quantity  
Make the smallest possible mass and divide it into one hundred pills, to be kept in a 3 dracm phial well stopped, which may be carried in the fob or waistcoat pocket; the pills not much longer than a pins head  
Should I, he says, be suddenly seized with the violent pains of a cholera fit I should not hesitate to take from five to twenty of these pills & lying down on my bed should wait a few minutes to learn whether their anaesthetic power might suffice to quell the motor aesthesia—failing which I should bleed from my arm to incipient deliquium. Perhaps a patient treated thus might die with cholera, but I should consider the surety so great as to require no insurance.  
Has the Doctor's practice in Philadelphia given him this confidence in his medicine? Instances of its success are omitted by him and we are left with the impression that it may be theoretical and lack the test of experience the only safe guard.



July  
31  
1849

As to the cause of the cholera says Dr Meigs, we know nothing positive. But we have reason to believe that Earth miasma may come up from great depths through the stratified crust of the globe. The crust spirals up the earth that we know of at Etna, at Vesuvius, at Hecla and others like them, are not reasonably to be esteemed the sole points of escape for imprisoned gasses and misasmas, into our genial air of the atmosphere. Doubtless therefore the atmosphere is often poisoned and rendered deleterious by imponderable and [ ] substances that escape through vast tracts of country, in every latitude and longitude. Those terrible earthquakes that shape a whole continent though unattended by volcanic eruptions are commonly followed by epidemic or endemic disorders, that ought rather to be attributed to Earth-miasmas that came forth during the convulsion, to mingle with the air. Every body is aware that in stories are recorded of dreadful pestilence the fore runners and premonitions of distant [ ] in the

July  
31

the [ ] of the globe. While on the other hand, the convulsions of the earth have been preceded for irregular or less length of time, the eruption of devastating diseases.

The Doctor gives it as his opinion that the cholera is of tellurid origin, and says, that the wisdom of man is foolishness when it strives to [ ] it of its [ ] by means of [ ] and Cordons Sanitaris. He [ ] why should we look for the cause of cholera in ozone, in thermometry, in [ ] [ ], or in hygromity? Where use it to [ ] of man or animals why to vegetable substances as above or in decomposition; or to electricity or the magnetic force. Is it clear that all possible station of the thermometer, the barometer and hygrometer, of the electrometer and the magnetic needle must have existed a thousand & a thousand times within the period of human record? without producing this cholera. The cause of cholera produces cholera—cholera alone. From those are not the cause. By reasoning thus on a way exclusion we concur at a certainty not that is, that the cause is not on the [ ] of the [ ] nor in connected nature & whether of vegetable or animal tribes [ ] We are left therefore to only [ ] found it in the Earth [ ]

July  
31

To escape from its pestilent  
cloud is not possible; to  
defend one's life from is on  
the other hand fully possible  
It is reasonable to say so;  
since the vast the immune, ma  
jority of persons touched by it  
manifest its influence on the  
[ ] mass by premonitory  
symptoms that are not [ ]  
[ ] mistaken by the countless  
and the well informed: Doubtless  
100,000 persons have been  
touched by it on our city dur  
ing the present year.

Dr Meigs pamphlet contains  
much matter for consideration  
and it appears and is timely

August  
1st

Wednesday m fair,  
wind N.E. and the day fair  
and clear; the air moderate  
and no indications of rain.  
Our physician says he has seldom  
known a more healthy season  
within the circuit of his practice.  
What a contrast this to the cholera  
regions of the middle & western  
states, and of the Canada.  
Reports at the Mayor's office, New  
York City on the 31<sup>st</sup> ult. at noon  
(Monday last) give 189 new case of cholera and  
81 deaths , in the last 24 hours

August  
2

Thursday m fair, wind NE  
and the day clear with  
moderate air.

We learn that a Rail road from Brat  
tleboro to Bellows-falls is under construction  
but from what source the money is derived  
we are not informed. When this link  
is completed, a rail road from the upper  
part of the Connecticut will be continuous  
to the City of New York, and the boat nav  
igation on the river, above our town  
suspended, and perhaps little used [    ]  
But the expence of rail roads & their main  
tainence is great, and to multiply them  
beyond their demand, evidently absurd;  
and we find most of the companies  
who have constructed them deeply in  
debt and paying large sums of interest  
and when this shall swallow up  
the profits, the stock will become  
of no value. This may be the case  
with some of the roads, now appare  
ently solvent, while some others  
now [    ] will prove abortions.  
Well constructed rail-roads on long  
lines, reaching great marts on the  
sea coast, may find permanent sup  
port; but short routes, with  
few exceptions, must necessarily  
find a want of support  
and of course be abandoned as  
worthless property: An outlay of 20  
or 30 thousd. dollars per mile should  
[    ] as cautious in secondary routes

August  
3

Friday m. fair, wind  
SW and the day  
In compliance with Recom  
mendation of President Taylor  
and the Proclamation of our Gov  
ernor Briggs, this day was ob  
served as one of humiliation, fasting  
and prayer by our religious con  
gregations” to implore the almighty  
in his own good, to slay the destroy  
in hand which is now lifted up  
against us.” For a people who  
profess to believe in a superior [ ]  
providence a time of consideration  
& reflection is at all times prop  
er, and especially in times of  
general calamity. If the present  
malady is sent upon man  
for his errors than it behooves  
him to look to them and to cor  
rect his course, but if the dis  
ease has prevailed in all ages  
of the world, it would seem  
follow that it is the result of  
established laws by the creator,  
and for any thing we know  
for wise purposes, though far be  
yond our conceptions.  
On viewing the structure of the Universe  
we perceive abundant evidence of be  
nevolent design in the Creation; and  
if our, in some instance, perceive phy  
sical evils we should be slave in  
imputing [ ] to the creator

O

- August  
3 “O thou Great Being, what thou cast  
Surpasses me to know;  
But sure am I, that known to thee  
Are all thy works below.”<sup>23</sup>  
Difficult as it is for us to reconcile  
the existence of what we call Physi  
cal evil, with the benevolence of the  
Creator, still we have abundant  
proofs that the latter has been the  
basis in the structure of the Uni  
verse. An enlightened part touching  
upon the subject enquires:  
“But errs not nature from this gracious end,  
From burning suns when livid death descend  
When earthquakes swallow, or when tempest sweep  
No, ‘tis reply’d the first almighty cause  
acts not by partial, but by general laws.”<sup>24</sup>  
The subject is involved in difficulties  
and perhaps beyond our comprehension.
- 4 Saturday. m. fair, wind S.W. PM  
clouds appeared, indicating a  
shower air warm. About  
sun set we had a gentle rain  
attend with light thunder.  
From the commencement of June  
up to this time a drought has pre  
vailed, and the crops have suffered  
severely, particularly grass, corn and  
potatoes, on sandy soils.
- 5 Sunday m. fair, wind NE and  
the day clear & warm.  
We learn by the places that a  
few case of cholera have occurred  
at Burlington Vt. From its position

---

<sup>23</sup> Robert Burns, *A Prayer, Under the Pressure of Violent Anguish*

<sup>24</sup> Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

August  
5

On a fresh water lake I  
had looked for the disease  
at that place, if not at others  
bordering on the lake, where  
the land partakes of the argil  
laceous character, combined  
with the calcarious, as is the case  
on the Hudson and the country  
north of that river to Montreal  
and Quebec~

6

Monday m cloudy, wind SW  
with a gentle fall of rain,  
which continued a considerable  
part of the day. How refreshing  
to the parched earth & vegetation!  
and even our animal spirits are  
invigorated. During these protracted  
droughts does the atmosphere con  
tain less aqueous vapor than in  
rainy weather? At no time I  
believe, there is a want of this vapor  
in the atmosphere, but a want of  
disturbing forces to produce con  
densations in different parts of the  
atmosphere, such as variable  
winds, and clouds differently  
charged with electricity.  
Mr Espy's theory of thunder  
showers is not, I believe, destitute  
of some foundation; his scheme  
for producing showers is by dis  
turbing the uniform state of the  
atmosphere by extended fires;  
and to the frequency of these fires when  
the southern part of Vermont was being  
cleared of its woods. [ ] the fre  
quency of our NW thunder storms, which

- August  
6 occurred almost every day at this season, with incessant thunder and lightning, and heavy falls of rain swelling our river over its first bank and inundating the low lands adjacent.
- 7 Tuesday m. fair, wind N and the day clear & fine air. NW wind  
Cholera at Greenbush opposite Albany. We learn that 45 cases & and 20 deaths occurred at that place during the last month from that disease. But we hear no thing of it on Hudson above Troy. Nor at Saratoga Springs. Should this place escape the malady its reputation as a healthy station will be enhanced.
- In England the disease is said to prevail at London, Liverpool Bristol, Plymouth, Portsmouth and along the whole of the South coast while Scotland is generally exempt from this disease: thus say the accounts by the latest arrival. It has been seen in Paris, but other places in France are not mentioned in the late accounts and we have little of it in the West Indi Islands. Perhaps we scratch in vain for the cause of a disease simultaneously so widely extended over the globe But when we see a certain city affected with the malady, and these in apparent scientific condition



August 7 we implied [——] from it or nearly so [——] so  
 as seen in New York & Boston; We  
 [——] ~~to the belief~~ must believe that there  
 is some difference between the  
 two places, the one favorable  
 and the other unfavorable to the  
 disease; and this difference  
 should be sought out with  
 the greatest care as affording a  
clue to the cause of the disease.

8 Wednesday m. fair, wind NW.  
 and the day fair & clear.

Tax } This day paid Mr. Felton, our Col  
 es pd } lector, taxes for 1849.  
 Viz. Arthur's \$14.85 } Exclusive  
 E. Hoyt 4.88 } of my Par  
 total 19.73 } ish Tax: Paid

and took receipts \$3.45 before.  
 As civilization cannot be main-  
 tained without taxation we must  
 pay our proportion without  
 regret, if the taxation is not  
 excessive or beyond the rules  
 of economy.~

New mode of publishing litteray  
 works. The Author, or proprietor,  
stereotypes a few vols. & sends speci-  
 mens out, by traveling agents who  
 obtain subscribers for the work  
 and the Books are subsequently  
 favored by the agents. The method  
 seems to be unobjectionable and fair  
 and subscribers see and examine  
 the work before they give their names

August  
9

Thursday m. fair, but a thick haze covering the sky; wind SW  
PM: the sun's shrouded by sprinkling clouds, but only a sprinkling of rain fell the close of the day.

Rail }  
roads }

A year ago yesterday I dined at D. Hoyts Inn, with the Trustees of Deerfield Academy after one of their stated meetings Among their topics the proposed Rail road from Greenfield to Troy came under discussion and I expressed by opinion that the prospect of a tunnel of 4 or 5 miles through Hoosac mountain if practicable, was visionary, and the whole road uncalled for by the public, since a successful rail road was then in operation from Springfield to Albany and thence to Buffalo. At that time the current of opinion here, seemed to be in favor of the Troy route, and the taste of driving a tunnel through Hoosac mountain was considered but a small obstacle, or one not fatal to the road. But in general I found the advocates of the road limited in their knowledge of the topography of the proposed route as well as ignorant of the principles of rail-road engineering.

The

August  
9

The construction of the rail road from Springfield to Albany over the elevated country between the Connecticut & the Hudson, had induced a belief that the Troy route from Greenfield was practicable, even with a 4 or 5 mile tunnel through the abrupt mass of Hoosac mountain, forgetting that the road from Worcester by Springfield to the state line, in the direction of Albany, was aided by the credit of our state. Another year having elapsed, without one foot of the [     ] being made on the Troy route. indicates, to say the least, a sickly diathesis, in the prospect from which, as appears to me, it can never recover.

The rail road projected from Grouts corner to Greenfield presents some indication of declining health. The Company is now attempting to raise money on bonded stock secured by mortgages on their road and whether they will succeed in this way, we have yet to learn. So far as the public interest requires rail-roads, we wish them success; but to multiply them beyond this, is a gross error.

10

Friday m. cloudy with a brisk fall of rain, & S. wind; the day continued cloudy & rainy & the wind variable from S to N—the rain was occasionally copious, or heavy  
resembling

- August 10 resembling those of 50 or 60 years ago, but unattended with lightning and thunder. The condition of the atmosphere at this time, must differ essentially from that of the long drought just past. For some curious observations and suppositions in relation to the formation of thunder gusts see Dr. Franklin's 4<sup>th</sup> Letter to Peter Collinson of London (July 1750) pages 36 & 51 of the printed series.
- 11 Saturday m. cloudy, wind and day generally cloudy & some rain fallen. About a dozen fatal cases of cholera have occurred among the Irish laborers at the [ ] at South Hadley falls. At Boston the disease is said to be on the increase though not rapidly and [ ] ly compared to [ ] [ ] at New-York the disease continues its destruction of human life, while at Philadelphia it rages with much less violence and in our western cities it is said to be abating
- 12 Sunday m cloudy, wind NE day generally cloudy with some rain; but in total

- August  
12 absence of thunder  
gusts, as if the earth  
and atmosphere even in an  
electrical equilibrium as has been  
the case here; during the season  
of hot weather not one of the  
old aspect having occurred at our  
village since summer commenced.  
A few of these gusts have occurred  
S.E. of us, at Amherst & the  
adjacent towns, where some  
damage has been, done by ~~has~~  
~~been done by~~ lightning.
- 13 Monday m. cloudy, with  
rain and N.E. wind, and  
the day was cloudy & fair al  
ternately. late in the afternoon  
unusually clear, exhibiting its  
a blue aspect-wind changed  
to S.W.—a fall of rain about  
sun set~
- 14 Tuesday m cloudy, wind SW  
and the day  
The Cholera still continues se  
vere at New-York—August 10<sup>th</sup>  
the report of the mayor's office (12 m)  
gives 105 men cases and 51 death.  
At Boston last Friday 6 deaths  
and 24 cases remaining in the  
Hospital. A case is reported at Newburyport

August  
14

and 9 cases & 5 deaths at Hampdon Me, since the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. But is said the disease is generally on the decline, in the U States and in Canada; this however may not be the fact. In some places where it had ceased, it is said, it had returned

Rail roads. The Greenfield Courier says that Alvah Crocker Esqr. has resigned the office of President and Mr Johnson the office of Super intendant of the Vermont and Massachusetts Rail road; and that the stock of the road is now selling for 30 cents on the dollar This indicates a disordered state of the companies concerns, and when the road from Montague to Greenfield will be completed is uncertain. Two expensive bridges and our green stoned range, present no small obstacles to the route. Mr Crocker has been a great promoter of rail roads, but probably he has found that zeal for them is not money, nor bonded capital a substitute.

15

Wednesday m. fair, wind N.E. and the day fair attend a library meeting at the Library room to act on a petition of part of the company who are

August  
15

desirous of dissolving the company & dividing the Books.  
I presented a plan, a new regulation for a continuance of the Library, and a Committee of three was chosen to make a new draft, to report to the company the first Tuesday of October next. myself, Reverend Mr Moors & Dr S.W. Williams compose the committee.~  
We learn that President Taylor while at Harrisburgh Pa. had an attack of the Cholera. His visit at this time I had considered as imprudent, and ought not to have been attempted. while this fatal disease is so prevalent in the country. The loss of this considerable man at this time would be a great evil to the United States  
We hope he will curtail his tour and return in health to Washington to pursue his useful Service.

16

Thursday m fair; wind N  
day fair & wind changed to SW.

Took

- August  
16 Took a trip through our N meadow  
and to Bloody brook via Mill  
river in company with Arthur Wil  
liams of Boston (a grandson who is  
here on a visit) At mill river  
called on Mr Horace Williams,  
who I always find full of the  
spirit of generosity: at his house  
his friends alway find ready  
refreshments, and kind receptions  
There proceeded to Col. Bryants  
where we dined; then returned  
home. The rute was very pleasant  
and the weather fine. The  
village of Bloody-Brook now  
called south Deerfield exhibits a  
flourishing appearance, the houses  
generally painted white, and  
their meeting house present  
elevated spires of the same  
colour indicating rather too  
great a diversity of religious opi  
nions for the harmony of the place  
The rail-road Depot and the La  
throp monument are conspicuous  
objects
- 17 Friday m. fair, wind W  
Some cumulous clouds, appeared  
showing some appearance of a  
thunder gust; but none occur  
red.  
A southern project for an  
nixing the Island of Cuba to the  
United States. It is now ascertained  
that a secret military fever is  
organized to rid the people of [ ]  
[ ] in an insurrection to put



down the Spanish Government  
 in the Island. The project is not  
 a new one; for it was seen last  
 year under the scheme for a  
Buffalo hunt. President Tay  
 lor has now issued a Proclama  
 tion calling on all civil and  
 military officer, to be vigilant &  
 active in opposing any steps  
 to carry out the [       ]  
 and has ordered a naval force  
 to frustrate the design of the  
 invasions. Some of the accounts  
 say the [     ] force is to act with  
 [     ] the northern provinces of  
 Mexico. No doubt our ultra  
 democracy has an eye on both  
 and the Barbados & Jamaica my  
 be the next objects, and the other  
 West India Islands in due time  
 The democratic plan developed  
 by President Monroe and [     ]  
 by President Polk, for excluding  
 European nations from any  
 possessions in N. America is in  
 operation, but not meeting  
 the saksion of the present  
 administration other measures  
 must be resorted to: and there  
 is no want of congenial spirits to  
 carry out any plan that can be  
 contrived to effect the original design.

August  
 18      Saturday m. cloudy  
          wind SW Sun appeared  
          before noon, and the day [   ]  
          fair, but many clouds were  
          seen, and distant thunder heard  
          but no rain fell.

19      Sunday. m. fair, wind N  
          and the day fair but scat  
          tering clouds, but no condens  
          ations to produce showers or  
          thunder gusts which have  
          become rare phenomena, not  
          one having occurred here during  
          the summer season, up to this time  
          This change in our atmospheric  
          phenomena within 40 or 50  
          years is not easily accounted  
          for. Does the clearing of the country  
          affect evaporation and the  
          electrical state of the clouds? No  
          other cause offers an explanation  
          But the fact seems not to known  
          to our young people.

20      Monday. M. cloudy, wind  
          N., the day generally cloudy  
          but no rain. A friend Mr  
          Lincoln of this town informs me  
          that he and his family have resided  
          about all night in the upland town  
          of Rowe where he found the air ex  
          tremely pleasant & pure; and it now  
          becomes a question whether our hill town  
          are not more eligible residences than the  
          rich alluvial towns of this [   ] country

August  
20 where febrile diseases  
and cholera prevail.  
In the winter season we should  
prefer our vallies, but on the whole  
our hill towns may be preferable  
for healthy residences, though  
I believe consumption & more  
common here than in vallies. Rowe is in  
the vicinity of Hoosac mountain  
equally elevated above the ocean  
and the people are said to be  
very hospitable and regular in  
their habits. No public house  
is kept in the town, but [ ]  
find accommodation at private  
houses. In the town are some  
high hills which afford fine  
views. In a summer's residence  
few are more inviting to the  
philosopher Who "seeks  
science in the coy abode"

21 Tuesday. m cloudy, wind SW;  
the day Some rainy, but  
fair before night.  
We learn that President Taylor  
has recovered his health and is pro  
secuting his northern tour which  
we think ill advised at this  
time when a fatal disease prevails  
in all parts of our country.

22 Wednesday m. fair  
wind S.W. and day fair

August  
22

In the Greenfield Courier of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst. we found some [ ] remarks on Rail-roads and a tunnel of about three miles is [ ], on the Manchester & Leeds Rail road in England; from it is informed that a tunnel of 4 or 5 miles through Hoosac mountain is [ ] Now to me it appears that among all our projects for rail roads, none are so destitute of even a probability of success as that from Greenfield to Troy In short the stock seems to have acquired no value. The project may continue to [ ] its advocates for a time, but beyond this it cannot go. Three millions of dollars it is supposed will carry the road to Williamstown and other million to Troy. But admitting this sum to be sufficient we ask where is the sum to be detained not from our [ ] ever seen to force completion on the project, and the state of the Massachusetts & Vermont Road [ ] [ ] selling at Boston for 27 7/8 cents on the dollar; yet the company advocates for proposals to construct bridges on the route from Grouts over the Connecticut & Deerfield Rivers to Greenfield

August  
22

It is time to give up utopian projects and to confine ourselves to such as are provable and [ ] [ ] by the public. [ ] [ ] system [ ] adopted and the multiplication of rail road and cease, and the people be convinced that industry and agriculture on the farms is their true interest. [ ] [ ] has pointed out the course of rivers & rail-roads, and when we disregard his dictation we must suffer disappointment. High mountains will not be [ ] to rail roads so long as gravitation continues to act. When deep gorges are formed through Mountains, they may be used for rail road routes; but in general the roads through them are too expensive for profit to the owners.

The rail road from Springfield up the valley of Westfield river was an expensive undertaking, and without the aid of the state could not have been completed, and without the same aid the road from Greenfield to Troy must remain a visionary project.

23

Thursday m cloudy with rain and wind NW; the day continued cloudy & wet.

August  
23

I have received no late letter from my son at Burlington but am informed that he has nearly completed his section of the road to Brandon and has 10 miles more added to his section. Whether the grading over mount holly is completed I am not informed: Cars it is said are running on the road some distance south of Burlington. I hear very little concerning the price of the stock on th[e] road, but have been informed that it was taken up before the road was commenced. Whether this or the central road through Montpelier will command the trade to Boston is a question to be determined here after: Excepting mount holly, the route is a level one, but requiring some bridges of considerable extent over other otter creek & its complement streams: and some wooden bridges are of short durability I have alway considered them unfavorable to rail-roads A wooden bridge, however well constructed may become defective before it is apparent, and its failure under loaded cars a fatal occurrence. Other bridges are liable to the same accidents, but they are never hailed with a [ ] [ ]

- August 23 Four Cases of sudden death have occurred in the western part of this town either by dysentery or cholera. which at this time may be considered as nearly the same disease. That part of the town is elevated land, and no local cases are known to exist in that section of the town. The dysentery we learn is now prevailing extensively in other towns in N. England.
- 24 Friday m. fair, wind N; the day was fair & pleasant. Last evening I found on my door step printed hand bill announcing that Dr H Tubbs an Analytical physician, would be in attendance at Hoyts Hotel, where all laboring under disease are invited to receive advice gratis. The same hand bill I am informed was laid at the door of every house in the village. This mode of itinerant practice is found being commendable. A regular resident physician is now deemed necessary in every village and if this itinerant mode be patronized the resident physician may not find business for his support. The invitation is flattering to the multitude for advice nothing is charged, but some [ ] medium is to be disposed of at

August  
24

at a price unknown  
 Dr meets with patronage it will  
 evince a low state of scientific know  
 among the people. To succeed is  
 this practice, art and cunning are more  
 important than skill in medi  
 cine. At this time there is a strange  
 propensity in the people to be carried  
 away by new pretences to discov  
 eries in the science of medicine  
 A scientific physician of long prac  
 tice is considered an imposter  
 Any new scheme under an unknown  
 [ ] is believed to be an im  
 provement, and all old schemes  
 worthless. Such a propensity of the  
 people I impute to a sort of a la  
 mode of education too common  
 amongst us at this time, the  
 tendency of which is to prostrate all  
 all sound scientific knowledge.  
 But, as in policies, the boldest pre  
 tender is the most successful  
 Are we then advancing in use  
 ful knowledge? Let the informed  
 man decide. That we have  
 among us ingenious men who are making  
 useful improvements, is not denied,  
 but can this be said of the peo  
 ple at large?  
 In our Colleges the higher branch  
 es of science are taught, but we  
 are compelled to say they are [ ]  
 [ ] too much by the time spent in  
 the languages of Greece & Rome, the



- August  
24 the tendency of course  
is to introduce a pedantic  
technology unfavorable to the  
progress of science; and we  
see many works from the press  
which none but a classical scho  
lar can read & comprehend.  
Nor he without recourse to  
his classical doctrines and musty  
rules of grammar, which become  
obsolete when he engages in the ordi  
nary business of life.
- 25 Saturday m. fair, wind NE  
and the day very clear and  
[ ] air; the entire ab  
sence of thunder gusts contin  
ues and is an anomaly at  
this season several occurred in  
each week & some times 2 or 3  
in a day.
- 26 Sunday m. fair, wind SW  
and the day clear, and  
air pretty warm Two more  
cases of death of occurred  
among the children, in Wisdom, by  
the dysentery. The families of Jones  
and Woods, near neighbors  
The Cholera accounts continue of  
fleeting, but we flatter ourselves the  
disease is generally abating.

August  
26

In New England ~~the~~  
Cholera, has mad but  
small progress, but the dysentery  
seems to have become a substitute  
and probably the causes of each  
of each are somewhat similar.  
In some of our small towns where  
the cholera was not [ ] it has  
prevailed, and no local caus can  
be assigned for it; while in other  
[ ] we should look for a [ ]  
[ ] exist no cases  
have occurred.

27

Monday m. cloudy, wind  
S.W. the day fair before noon.  
For a week past my health has  
been precarious—almost a con  
stant call for a discharge of urine  
and a loss of appetite and  
at times attended with an af  
fection of the teeth in the right  
lower jaw. and a [ ]  
of the bowels. Dr Williams,  
has given me some medicine  
to correct the bowels, but  
my urinary discharges continue  
very frequent. The truth is  
my machine is become very fee  
ble and indicates a dissolution

During this state of the body  
I feel a strong thirst for cold bever  
ages and reflect on the cooling  
effects of cool water I have often

August  
27

cupped from the wild  
springs & rills on the borders of  
our meadows, when exhausted  
with heat's labor in the hot  
seasons. But my physician  
recommends caution in the  
indulgence. One of these springs  
at the NE part of our pine hill  
in our north meadow, remarkable  
the purity & coolness of its waters  
I well recollect. How often have  
I been sent to this spring to fill  
the runlet for the refreshment of the  
almost famished laborers whose  
small had become exhausted. and  
what refreshing relief was thus  
[       ] this famed spring?  
without evident which were  
used by laborers on the field when  
I was a lad. The abuse of this  
[       ] became common in later  
times and was carried to great  
excess. Indeed laborers could  
scarcely be found without and  
allowance in the field. These ar  
dent spirits deluded with wa  
ter were harmless in hot weather  
I have never doubted, but there  
is danger in a free use of it at  
[     ] home

In the campaigns of 1755 at  
and about Lake George the practice  
of brewing molasses & spruce beer was  
introduced and was an excellent [     ]

- August  
27 Since that period ardent spirits  
have been considered as essential  
in war as gunpowder.  
In the late war in Mexico  
I am informed tea and coffee were  
substituted with good effect, and  
if any useful lessons were then taught  
lest there be remedied in future  
wars; for no others favora  
ble to the case of humanity, or  
the honor, morality or justice  
can be named.
- 28 Tuesday. m. cloudy, wind S.W.  
the day was generally cloudy.  
Yesterday I purchased an accous  
tick instrument consisting of a flex  
ible tube a bell mouth piece and  
a focal point, by which I am enabled  
to have common conversation  
Price, 3 dollars. The instru  
ment may be coiled into a small  
compass and carried in the pocket.
- 29 Wednesday m. fair, wind S.W.  
the day fair & cloudy, or hazy,  
Some distant thunder & sprinkly  
of rain.  
A great meeting has been held in  
the City of New-York, to express sym  
pathy for the Hungarians who  
are now nobly struggling for liberty  
and independence, in which many  
addresses were made; but such  
[     ] country that we are

Au            unable to do [    ] as a na  
 gust        tions, we [    ] its less. But  
 29        whether our sympathy will have  
             any useful effect is doubtful.  
 30        Thursday m. cloudy wind  
             SW. Soon fair & warm  
             and the day clear.  
             The present aspect of Affairs  
             in Europe present a gloomy as  
             pect and whether they will  
             end in a general war & the estab  
             lishment of liberty is a matter  
             of doubt. In America the  
             old democratic spirit of demo  
             cracy is still alive and still  
             exhibits a spirit for conquest  
             Cuba and the Canadas are  
             soon for annexed to our Union as  
             soon as [        ] will permit.  
             We may sympathise with the Hung  
             arians and preach liberty to nations  
             but so long as we possess a spirit  
             of conquest & disregard the right  
             of old nations we but ill de  
             serve the esteem of the frie[n]ds  
             of man.  
             We hear that our President has fre  
             quent attacks of the diarrhea  
             on his Tour, & has been very un  
             well at Erie. This tour I think  
             is ill timed & I fear the result

Au  
gust  
29

will be fatal to the President  
If his state of health required a  
change of air, we think he should  
not have sought it on the shores  
of Lake Erie, or on the argil  
lacious, calcarious soils of the  
state of New-York, where earth  
miasm exhales and poisons  
the atmosphere, rendering it un  
fit for respiration  
Mr Clay, in search of helth, first  
visited Saratoga Springs, and has  
now proceeded to Newport in R.I.  
said to be the most healthy place  
within the United Sates during the  
hot season. In his choice of [ ]  
we think he displays more judg  
ment than General Taylor,  
who should have consulted his  
health, rather than the qualifications  
of the multitude.

31  
31

~~Thursday~~ Friday M cloudy, wind S.W.  
and the day cloudy, rainy.  
In the general cloudyness of the at  
mosphere, [ ] consists in a spread of  
a sort of haze without any cu  
mulous clouds indicating thun  
der gusts, as in former times,  
and whether this indicates an  
unhealthy state of the atmosphere  
we are unable to decide. But  
the fact of the absence of thunder  
gusts is well known to the atmos

Au  
gust  
31

spheric observer of meteorological phenomena.

The prevailing dysentery now spreading over New England is a proof of a cholera state of the atmosphere which in the western states & in the city of New York which has proved so fatal under the moon of cholera. The dysentery then is a modified cholera which requires but a little more of the western misasm to [ ] the genuine Asiatic cholera. The malady seems to be periodical and may it not become annual? In the various campaigns of armies in this country the dysentery has proven very fatal to the troops, and was ascribed to local causes instead of a peculiar state of the atmosphere. More than 100 year ago, an army posted at [ ], suffered most severely from a malady supposed to have been generated by local causes. Was not this a species of cholera then called camp distemper? Such was the disease among the troops that the expedition against Canada was given up & the army returned home. See Smith's History of New-York

- Sept  
1 Saturday m. fair wind NE  
and day fair, the sky blue  
and some well defined  
clouds, and air somewhat  
cooler. considerable rain  
last night.
- 2 Sunday m fair wind  
NW, and day fair; an  
cool-- a fire in my room.
- 3 Monday m. fair, wind N and  
fair day. Many people say  
a light frost was perceptible in  
the evening. We hear of the  
death  
of Moses Eddy of this  
town, and of our industrious  
farmers, aged 87 years. By  
the labor of his hands and care  
ful economy {——} he acquired a  
handsome property and inde  
pendence.
- 4 Tuesday m. fair & wind South,  
day fair, but hazy.  
We learn from a N. York pa  
per of yesterday that Rev. Henry Col  
man recently died at Islington  
near London of a fever. Mr  
Colman was formerly a resident  
of this town, and was well known  
for his agricultural tour in Europe  
reports of which have been pub  
lished, containing much valuable  
information. He [ ] from [ ]  
a gentleman clergyman at [ ]



Sept  
4

and published several vols. of his Sermons. The system of Christianity adopted by Mr Colman was divested of the dogmas and corruption of the old school which have so long obfuscated the theology of our country, and his enlightened views tended to dissipate the fog which had spread over it by the jargon of Calvin, which has unaccountedly been adopted as Christianity through the influence of what is called orthodoxy; and his attention to philosophical agriculture has been advantageous to the public, and his published Reports will be read with advantage.

5

Wednesday m. cloudy, wind NW and the day cloudy with some rain. Absence of thunder gusts still continue and the fact that none has occurred here during the summer season is remarkable. is the cholera any way connected with the state of the atmosphere? We cannot avoid making the query, nor the impression that the atmosphere has, in a degree, lost its insulating property and producing a sort of equilibrium of disturbance in the atmosphere.

Sept  
6

Thursday m. cloudy, wind SW  
 Soon fair, & day with  
 its usual haze  
 The progress of the Cholera in  
 N England is now greater than was  
 anticipated at its commencement.  
 Besides Boston, Lowell & some other  
 places in that vicinity, it has extend  
 to Bangor on the Penobscot, but  
 we hear nothing from it in New  
 Brunswick & Nova Scotia. To assign  
 any local causes for its existence in  
 small towns would be difficult.  
 and the latitude of places seems to  
 afford no due to its progress. But I  
 believe it is found most prevalent, on  
 large rivers and the shores of large  
 fresh water lakes. and in places  
 where there is a thick population  
 Its appearance at South Hadley  
 falls & the vicinity on Connecticut  
 river, was not looked for, while  
 the lower part of the river has been  
 nearly exempt, from it. In England  
 it is said to be very prevalent at this  
 time, and there we should look to  
 population as the exciting cause. If  
 this theory be correct, we may look  
 for a frightful loss in the City of London  
 The malady seems not to be  
 confined to tropical regions, and  
 we hear little from it on the west in  
 dia islands & southern Mexico.  
 The boasted healthiness of the north  
 ern regions of the globe may have  
 lost their character for salubrity; and

Septr      our western country with  
 all of its attractions may become less  
 inviting to immigrants, and the form  
 ation of dense settlements in the val  
 ley of the Mississippi, abandoned;  
 when our mountains regions  
 will be sought for residences more  
 congenial to health.  
 Should the cholera become an  
 nual, or occur at Short periods  
 of years, human life would  
 become more precarious, ~~and~~  
 old age rare, and our graveyards  
 exhibit mournful lists of the young  
 and middle aged who were  
 swept off by the fatal malady  
 which is now depopulating our  
 heretofore healthy cities & towns.  
 Whether the cholera is of recent  
 origin is a disputed point; but  
 if it has been known in [    ]  
 [    ] country in a milder form, it  
 now exhibits a fatality not less  
 destructive to human life, than  
 in its former stages of the old world  
 7      Friday m. cloudy, wind NW  
 the clouds presenting more of the  
 cumulus aspect than has been  
 noticed for sometime, attended  
 with some rain, but the electric  
 fluid still remains in repose.  
 The day cloudy with some  
 rain at night fair  
 8      Saturday m. fair wind N;  
 The day fair & sky less hazy

- Sept  
9      Sunday m fair, wind N  
and the day quite clear  
the sky of a blue aspect.  
The latest accounts of the cholera represent the malady as abating within the U States with the exception of Bangor on the Penobscot, where it is very fatal for so small a population.
- 10      Monday m. fair, wind N.  
and a blue sky through  
the day a rare instance during this season.  
Of the secret expedition against Cuba for the promotion of a revolution in that Island much is said in our papers but it is believed that through the vigilance of President Taylor the democratic election will be suppressed; but Spain will see by what a feeble tie she holds her possession in the neighborhood of our territory. We have among us many men who are not for the rights of nations, and the other West Indies islands will at length be compelled to submit to our vandalism. The plan is not new, it has been in operation since the reign of Mr Monroe.

- Sept  
10 Mr Polks invasion of Mexico was but a part of the plan; The moment Great Britain is shorn of her power, and a democratic precedent can be replaced in the white house for west india islands will submit [—] into our full grasp: Such is man when unrestrained by moral considerations.
- 11 Tuesday m. fair, wind N; the day was fair & air moderate, but the usual haziness appeared at night. To the hazyness I attribute the absence of thunder gust as remarkable this summer. It seems to keep up a sort of electrical equilibrium in the atmosphere, which is not the case in a highly insulating state of the air But whether this has any effect on the clouded state of the atmosphere I cannot decided. Nor do I suppose there is a dimutation of the [ ] of electricity in the atmosphere, an equilibrium is sufficient for the phenomena.
- 12 Wednesday m fair, wind SW; the day the same, with its usual haze. A Book Salesman offered me Swards life of John Q Adams 1 Vol. 8 vo, price \$1.25 a handsome work; but

Sept.  
12

my impaired sight compelled me to decline the purchase. The peculiar character of Mr Adams, and the known ability of the author were strong incentives to the purchase. The work was printed at Auburn, and is handsomely executed. and cheap. Thus to be deprived of the pleasure of reading is one of the misfortunes of age.

The recent return of President Taylor to the city of Washington is propitious and it is fortunate for us that we have so vigilant a Commander at our helm at this time, when the evil passions of a portion of our community are disposed to upset the harmony which now exists between us & Spain. Under a President of a different character what might we not expect. In short we are an uneasy people with whom neighboring nation can long preserve peace; and these [ ] men claim to be republicans who are governed by the rights of man! The President may facilitate the scheme; but will he be able to vindicate the spirit that presents it? He might as well attempt to still the winds or storms of the ocean. This spirit is wild, revolutionary & necessarily [ ]

with

- Sept  
12 governments based on universal suffrage, and will continue so long as the people can be led by designing demagogues. For the happiness of a country under a republican form of government it is essential that the people be virtuous and pay strict regard to the rights of other nations. We may become powerful and rob our neighbors of their possessions, be it what people will hold us respectable? Alas as portion of our people seem to have lost sight of the [ ] principles on which the glory of nations is founded & history will have a [ ] tale to relate.
- 13 Thursday m. fair, wind W.  
and day fair, and air  
[ ] warm.  
We hear that the dysentery prevails in many of our towns. May not this be called the Cholera of New-England which under local existing causes proves genuine? I recollect seasons when it proved fatal under the name of camp distemper. The new bank at Greenfield, we are informed is now in operation and a stack of new bills issued.

Sept  
13

Of late years much clamor has been heard against banks; they have been represented as monopolies conferring advantages on our moneyed capitalists to the detriment of others; but experience has demonstrated their utility, if not absolute necessity in a mercantile community. In the establishment of new banks it is necessary to avoid a multiplication of them beyond the wants of the public and that sufficient gold & silver is deposited in the vaults to maintain the value of the bills issued. When the profits of a bank fall short of paying a due rate of interest on its capital, it becomes sickly will ultimately fail; and this may be the consequence of too great a [ ] of them.

14

Friday. m. cloudy, wind W; Sun out at noon. and the day fair, with its usual haziness.

A rumor by the rail road train announces the death of President Taylor at Washington by the cholera, said to have been received at Springfield by telegraphic communication. I fear it will prove true. We



Septr  
14

We wait with anxiety  
for a repetition of the rumor.

But our fears are [ ]  
from the effects of his ill timed  
tour to North, undertaken at  
the urgent invitation of his friends in  
that section of the Union.

During an indisposition for some  
time past I have been taking [ ] a  
medicine, D Murrays Fluid Magni  
sia under the direction of Dr  
Williams, our physician; If it is a  
patent medicine, its composition is  
however, otherwise I should not  
taken it into my stomach. It claims  
to be antacid, & an [ ], and  
is not disagreeable to the taste. Thus  
I make it a rule never to take medi  
cine whose composition is unknown  
to scientific physicians, well knowing  
[ ] Secret medicines are often  
useless, if not detrimental to  
health. But it is a fact that  
our best read physicians are disinterest  
ed & bold pretenders selected in  
pressure by the people. This is a  
[ ] error & perhaps inevitable~  
To ensure compliance [ ]  
physician must be a man  
of general science, of discriminating  
judgment, and of acute observation  
Open and avid, [ ] arrives at [ ]  
[ ] distinction & [ ]

- Sept  
15 Saturday m. cloudy, and  
W the day became far  
rain  
The rumor of President Taylors  
death was not confirmed by the last  
nights train We understand he  
has been attacked by the cholera, since  
his return, but hopes are entertained  
of his recovery.  
The secret expedition against  
Cuba, it is said, is like to be sup  
pressed, but the vandalic spirit  
remains among us and prob  
ably will soon appear in another  
form. Delunda est Carthago  
is still the motto. Alas! What  
a departure from the principle of  
liberty which pervaded our Country  
in the days of Washington!
- 16 Sunday M. fair, wind SW  
the day continued fair but  
with its [ ] haziness [ ]  
the ground is pretty dry.
- 17 Monday m. cloudy, wind  
N.W.; sun seen at noon; the  
day generally cloudy & I [ ]  
rain fill
- 18 Tuesday. m. fair, wind N.  
and the day pretty clear  
the air moderate
- 19 Wednesday m. fair wind NW  
and day fair & clear

Sept  
19

The day the volunteer military companies of militia of this part of the State, assemble at Northampton for two days of camp duty according to the requirements of our militia laws. Whether the present plan is the best adapted to our condition, is a question of some importance. The troops receive an annual sum from the state for their services. But it is not to be supposed they will imbibe the mechanical habits & instruction necessary for soldiers in so short a time. Perhaps the most useful part of the present system is, to keep up a sort of military spirit which will be found useful in case of a defensive war.

But so long as a portion of community disregard the obligation of morality, so long will a military force be necessary for the peace of nations. With the present thirst for conquest which is felt in some parts of the U. States, what but a military force could maintain peace with neighboring nations with which we are now in harmony. When men shall become universally virtuous military forces will be useless, and not until then.

20

Thursday. m. cloudy, wind NE but the sun out before noon

- and the day continued  
 fair and the sky somewhat  
 of the blue cast, but [     ]  
 no distinctly defined clouds,  
 and the absence of thunder gust  
 is still remarkable. Who can  
 say he recollects such a summer  
 season, or one more replete  
 with fatal sickness of various  
 kinds, all, perhaps, connected  
 with a choleric state of the at  
 mosphere.
- 21 Friday m. fair, wind NE;  
 and the day was fair & pleas  
 The military muster at North  
 ampton, I am informed, consisted  
 of 15 companies, or rather half com  
 infantry, riflemen & artillery, at  
 tended by a large concourse of  
 spectators; and that all was  
 orderly conducted, and closed  
 by an address from our adju  
 tant General.  
 Two or three cases of the chole  
 ra, I am informed, occurred among  
 the troops during the two days of  
 service, this shad anticipated would  
 be the case.  
 If the present militia of our  
 state affords a sufficient protect  
 tive force it is evidently and  
 improvement of the old one which  
 attempted to discipline the whole  
 In the late war with Mexico our  
 main force consisted of volunteers  
 corps

- Sept  
21 corps raised from the [ ]  
of the country but better calculated for sudden conquest  
than permanent service in a protracted war. But we thwart  
the aid of our West point school their tactics very defective  
and their battles of uncertain results.
- 22 Saturday m. cloudy,  
wind N.E. air cool and  
the day cloudy & fair by turns  
This is autumnal equinox,  
when we look for a change  
of weather, but not always  
favorable to health, the autumnal  
season sometimes proving the most  
sickly.
- 23 Sunday m. clear, wind W.  
and day was some  
rainy & cool-pretty cool.  
Mr. Edward Stebbins one  
of my son's assistants on the  
Burlington & Rutland rail road  
arrived here yesterday; he informs  
me that my son's section of  
road is nearly completed and  
the gravelling a [ ] in progress.  
The line over Mount holly  
is not fully graded; this part I  
have considered difficult from  
elevation and curves. A rail road  
he say is constructing from the Rutland  
road to Troy.

Sept  
24

Monday m. cloudy, wind  
NW, but soon became  
fair, with many well de  
fined clouds & blue sky  
I notice these as unusual du  
ring the past summer in ad  
dition to an absence of thunder gusts  
during the same season, the  
most remarkable within my  
recollection.

Medical During my illness  
for sometime past, I have suffered  
much from sickness at the stomach  
which I have endeavored to allay by  
moderate draughts of cold water which  
have not always produced the de  
sired effect. Hop or spruce  
beer, charged with carbonic acid  
has had a different result  
and I now feel a thirst for fermented  
diluted ale porter &c. but which  
my physician would indulge me in  
large draughts is doubtful; but he  
does not entirely prohibit them.  
Brandy & other diluted ardent spir  
its soon become nauseous to the taste  
but perhaps necessary as a stimulus  
small doses of [     ] seem to  
have a temporary effect in remov  
ing the sickness, but no so effectively  
as carbonic acid which was always  
a favorite beverage with me, and parti  
cularly our small family beer when  
properly fermented. To the labor  
what a beverage~                      In

- Sept 24 In the morning, he went cheerfully to the distant fields carrying his wooden bottle of beer and similar dish of food, deposited them in some cool place; at noon dined in the shade of the head land tree and at night returned to his home and supped on the plain repast prepared by the frugal house wife with no other stimulus than the pure saccharine mug of cider from the cool cellar, bountifully stored with this healthy beverage. This was the general practice when I was a lad, and none were more healthy than the industrious laborer.~
- 25 Tuesday m. fair, wind SW and a fair day followed.
- 26 Wednesday m. fair, wind SW; the day cloudy & fair, but mostly cloudy.
- 27 Thursday m. fair, wind West. and the day fair. Last night some rain fell.
- 28 Friday m. fair, wind SW and day fair.
- 29 Saturday m. fair, wind SW (SW) and day fair

- Sept. until late afternoon; then  
 29 general haze overspread the sky  
 30 Sunday m cloudy wind NE  
 some rain last night, and  
 a small quantity before the  
 night; the day cloudy  
October
- 1 Monday m. cloudy  
 with rain' wind NE, the  
 day continued some what  
 rainy. We now enter upon  
 the cool season, without hav  
 ing experienced one real thunder  
 during the summer, at this place  
 a most extraordinary case in me  
 teorology.
- 2 Tuesday m. fair, wind NE  
 frost seen in the morn. The  
 day fair & pleasant, but becoming  
 hazy before night. When frost  
 occur we look for more pure  
 air in the atmosphere.  
 A friend (Mr Luke Wright) sends me  
 a bottle of well cleansed new ci  
der which I find delicious to the  
 taste and I believe very healthy  
 when drank in due quarters.
- 3 Wednesday. m. cloudy, wind N.  
 and the day generally cloudy  
 with cool air.
- 4 Thursday m. cloudy & rainy  
 wind NE & the day cloudy  
 and rainy. [ ] [ ] [ ]



Octr  
4  
1849

Thursday,  
Col. Noah Wells of Rowe  
made me a call. He is on his  
return from the Whig Con  
vention at Worcester. Says they  
haad a spirited meeting, and  
nominated the former Governor  
and Lt Governor and had many  
able speeches. He appears in the  
vigor of life and usefulness—is  
a valuable man. A majority of  
such in the State would ensure as  
prosperity, tranquility & happiness  
In the Convention were many of  
our best patriots, and that an  
advers party should be found  
among us is an anomaly not to  
be accounted for, but by supposing  
the existence of a wild spirit, that  
would hostile to the best organ  
ized society man is capable of  
forming: But I am not prepared  
to say that all who are urging  
innovations in our State Govern  
ment are conscious of preserving  
a course destructive to our welfare  
but I am compelled to own that  
many of these [ ] have tak  
in up their opinions from false  
promises, or superficial views which  
more enlarged views would have  
enabled them to accord.  
If this opposition to [ ] it  
needs not the gift of propecy to be  
[ ] [ ] that will follow

- Octr  
5      Friday m cloudy, wind NE  
rain last night; and most of  
fair
- 6      Saturday m cloudy with some  
rain last night, and most of  
the day ~~fair~~ cloudy & rainy
- 7      Sunday m cloudy, with NE  
wind & the day cloudy with rain  
I have several new and interesting  
works on my table, but in these  
cloudy days am not able to peruse  
a great misfortune to one of my hab  
its, and for which I find no  
substitute
- 8      Monday m cloudy, wind NE  
the day cloudy excepting a short  
interval of sun shine about noon  
The same haziness of the atmos  
phere which has prevailed through  
the summer still continues; and  
we seldom see any well defined  
clouds, and thunder gusts  
seem to be [      ] as if  
the laws of electricity, evaporation  
and condensation were changed.  
At any rate I think we say that  
meteorological phenomena during  
the past summer has been singular  
if not unparalleled
- 9      Tuesday m. fair, wind NE  
but before noon the sky was  
covered with the usual haze, as  
the day continued cloudy cool  
the air [      ] cold Sun's  
declination  $6^{\circ} 2' 4''$  South

Octr  
10

Wednesday m. cloudy  
wind N.E. The clouds  
a general haze over the sky  
as usual. The past summer  
during which time few or  
no brisk winds have prevailed;  
as in case of thunder gusts;  
which are supposed to pur  
ify the air. Whether this state  
of the atmosphere will explain  
the sickness of the season is a  
question for the philosopher.  
That the cholera is an at  
mosphere disease cannot be doubt  
ed; but the virus may be gen  
erated in the earth and diffused  
in the atmosphere by exhala  
tion; and it is a fact that it  
is most prevalent on the vicinity  
of large rivers & fresh water lakes.  
Dense population is an exacting cause  
but places situated on the sea  
coast seem to be exempt from it  
in a certain degrees. The city of N.  
York may be supposed an exception  
But if the Hudson did not ex  
ist it is doubtful whether the dis  
ease would have been [ ] there  
This subject demands investigation  
Mr George Wilson of Boston son  
of Col. Wilson of this town made  
me a call. He was a member of the  
state Whig convention at Worcester, and  
was promise of usefulness in the  
[ ] community of the

- Oct  
10
- proceedings of this convention, he speaks in high terms, and say the principles speeches delivered, are printed in the papers at Boston and we hope will appear in the standard papers of the interior which seldom given is but scraps.
- Fortunately for our State we find enlightened patriots who know the value of liberty and afford influence on preserving it in its purity~
- The day continued cloudy except a short time at noon when the sun appeared & and a sprinkling of rain fell
- 11
- Thursday. m cloudy with rain wind N.E.; the day continued rainy.
- [ ] farmer has just dressed a hog of 6 ½ months, following which weighed 413 lbs, sold at 7 cents the lb.= \$28.91. exclusive of the anterior land. Would not the fallowing of swine upon a large scale be profitable to the farmer of N. England?
- 12
- Friday m. fair, wind NW and some well defined detached clouds, indicating a more pure atmosphere than has prevailed for month past & [ ] for [ ] towards night.

Octr  
12

where dense broken clouds  
Of the old aspect, overspread  
the sky.  
A sort of Cattle show at Green  
field this day, got up probably  
by the traders of that village ra  
ther than the neighboring farmers  
who will not drive their cattle  
Let that place [ ] to be  
that they are fine breeds. No  
premiums are offered for excel  
lence but the farmers are  
to be compensated for their trou  
ble in the next weeks papers. Hints  
are given that an agricultural society  
at the meeting and a petition [ ]  
red to the General Court for a Charter  
and of course State funds to sus  
tain it. The central society at No  
ampton under proper regulations would  
answer all the purposes of the three  
counties of old Hampshire

13

Saturday m. fair, wind N  
followed by a fair day.  
My State of Health For about  
one week past I have been under  
a bit of wasting pain, attended  
with a loss of appetite & sickness of  
the stomach, which has created a  
strong thirst for drinks, and with  
in a few days I have been afflicted  
with the old man's  
complaint

Octr  
13

Symtoms of decay—swelled  
legs. I have taken various  
medicines under the direction of  
Dr. Williams, but all I can  
expect from the, is the smooth  
ing of the path of my exit.  
At my age, when the vital  
functions are giving away, in  
vain we look for a recovery  
and bredth: My age is more  
nearly 84 years, and seems to be  
nearly spun. My fear is that  
I may become a troublesome charge  
to my friends.

“To each unthinking being heaven a friend  
Gives not the useless knowledge of its end;  
To man imparts it, but with such a view;  
As while he dreads it, makes him hope it too.”<sup>25</sup>

I have lived in an eventful  
period of the worlds History and  
to recount the events, would  
fill up volumes in additions to  
these that have been written.

14

Sunday m. fair, wind NE  
frost last night, pretty severe  
the day a bright sun shine  
and a blue sky generally.  
Remarks This [     ] I  
am told, is found in our hill towns  
and on our own hills but  
rather I [     ] sun through [     ]

---

<sup>25</sup> Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*, Epistle III.

- Octr  
14 will [    ]. A gentleman presented me a specimen from Whately, large and fine, which I eat with high relish without any apparent ill effects. In our vally towns they are rare, and the crop of apples small and very little cider will be made; than which I believe a more wholesome beverage is not to be found, if it be carefully prepared, ~~and~~ that in clean barrels, and drank in due quantities: This article and a plenty of sound apples I consider of the first importance to the farmer. In this expression of my opinion I am aware that I differ from those who are entitled to respect.
- 15 Monday. m. fair, wind SW; and the day fair until night  
     In my remark of yesterday I noticed the importance of the apple [    ] it. When a lad, a trip through our extended orchards was pleasant in the month of May. The trees were in full blossom and appeared to be one connected flower; the breeds were busy in [    ]  
     See page 40 [    ]

Octr  
 16      Tuesday m. cloudy but  
          soon fair, wind SW and  
          the day fair.  
          Our maples begin to put  
          the fall hue.  
 17      Wednesday m  
          day cloudy, wind S.  
          and day fair but hazy.  
          The changes we observe in the  
          color of leaves at this season is  
          caused by a decreased [    ]  
          which the sap changes  
          its reflexes The process I be  
          lieve may be emulated by chem.  
          ical composition. Were it poss  
          ible to change the refraction power  
          of the prism similar effects could  
          be produced; and instead of  
          the red rays, for instances, we  
          might perceive those of a different  
          color. See Newtons optics. and  
          other authors on the subject, from  
          Two letters from son  
          & wife at Burlington all well  
          is common  
 18      Thursday m. cloudy, wind  
          W; the day fair  
          My kind friends send me



19

kind acts we see the [     ]  
 ings of civilization & benevo  
 lence, we See the difference  
 between civilized man and  
 the rude tribes. Acts of benevo  
 lence I think are congenial  
 to the human mind, and that  
 depravity assigned to man  
 by a certain sect is far  
 from admissible We see  
 instances of depravity, it is  
 true, but but let us not im  
 pute it to a wise Creator  
Friday m fair and  
 the same wind W.  
 My full sate of health  
 and my impaired eye sight  
 admonish me that my  
 [     ] is nearly over  
 I commenced taking notes and  
 remark in 18 1824 and the em  
 ployment was no onerous a  
 task. What I have written here  
 has been the work of little  
 preparation, and is [     ]  
 the reflection offhand and often  
 at random

Octr  
19

The dates of events, may be  
of use if appealed to  
I commit the whole  
to my Son Arthur W Hoyt trust  
ing that he will keep the whole  
within his precinct, as  
they are not intend for  
the public eyes; there though  
in many instances trifling  
events have been noticed, he  
will not find them entirely  
unimportant. as matters  
of reference. I am aware, how  
ever, that the perusal of the whole  
so carelessly written would be  
a task beyond his pa  
tience.

20

Saturday m. fair, wind W  
and fair day.  
Peaches offered for 4/ per bush  
el. I bot a peck. When ripe &  
large they are delicious fruit.  
found in perfection in N. Jersey  
and now sent [—] in ~~New Jersey~~  
in closed bushels to [      ]  
of the U States by rail roads.

- Octr  
18 a variety of [ ] [ ]  
byt my [ ] stomach  
forbids indulgence in these
- 
- 21 Sunday m partially fair  
wind N, and day fair  
and pleasant. My Daugh  
ter Bryant who has with me  
several days returned home at  
night, after affording me much  
aid. In case of sickness [ ]  
[ ] is beyond [ ]  
we then fill their [ ] and  
wonder at their patience.
- 22 Monday M cloudy and  
rainy, wind NE; the Et  
mountain covered with fog. and  
the day similar.
- 23 Tuesday m. fair, wind  
SW and the day fair and  
pleasant. The water of the  
River at S. Hadley was let in  
to the basin yesterday, with  
success. A large factory is now  
to be established at that place.  
a second [ ]

Octr	Wednesday. M fair wind W.
24	and day fair. & [    ] air.
25	<u>Thursday</u> m fair, wind N.W. and fair day.
26	<u>Friday</u> m. fair, wind and the day continued fair. <u>Sir John Franklin</u> The adventurous expedition under the command of this officer and the total want of intelligence con- cerning him, has occasioned much sensibility in the public mind. We had supposed the where were in the Northern ices by shipwreck or starvation. But we now have the cheering account that Sir Johns two ships entered Prince regents sound four years ago where he remained up to the this time firmly fixed in the ice and that subsistence had been found for the crews. The intel- ligence was obtained from an Esquimoe

Esquimoen Indian who says he has been on board of each ship, and conveyed to the English Admiralty by a whale ship. The design of the voyage was to pass along the northern sea from Davis Straits to that of Behrings. The account seems to be authentic and way look for the restoration of Sir John & his crews to their country. The extreme danger of this voyage we might suppose would deter any from attempting it; But whoever heard that a British naval officer declined the most arduous service, when its reputation was pending? The route however can never be practably useful, for it will seldom happen that it will be clear of ice.

Great Britain has long been the [ ] on the seas, but [ ] was on the deep, but whether she is longer to sustain the supremacy is a question Lu enant Burne she may find and become remarkable only for her [ ] in her public debt in [ ] a full.

Octr  
27

~~Wednesday~~ m. fair, wind

Saturday m. fair, wind

S. and day fair & fine

The account of the discovery  
of Sir John Franklin's ships  
is corroborated by the arrival  
of a whale ship at New Lon  
don on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant.

Should the Sea remain  
frozen the crews may es  
cape to the coast by a march  
over the ice as in the case  
of Capt. Ross. That the crews  
should have found subsist  
ance for four years without  
supplies from home, is extraordinary  
Sir John we think will be wanting  
to return to England by his ordered  
route without further experiment

Sunday m. fair wind N.

the day fair but hazy

My friend Lincoln entertained  
me by reading in the after  
noon and my Daughter re  
turned home to S. Deerfield.

29

~~Monday~~ [—] light rain

and the day much the  
same and also foggy.  
Our farmers have now nearly  
completed their corn harvest which  
[ ] about pretty well. Under  
the notion of economy they  
have conducted to suspend  
the full [ ] of the meadows, a  
scheme I think they will aba  
don the next year. The redu  
ction of a month to their long  
winter fodder will be found  
an unnecessary expence and  
add little to the fertility to the  
soil. The notion I think is  
taken up without due consid  
eration and if found penny wise  
will be pound foolish The  
great science of improvement in  
agriculture is the application of ma  
nure to the soil and they  
may be prepared from almost any  
agreeable animal stools [ ] that  
amount of chemical.

30

Tuesday m. fair, wind W rain  
last night, followed by a day  
Accidents are almost constantly  
occurring on our rail roads:  
yesterday

Octr	<del>Monday</del> m cloudy [ ]
21	<del>some rain</del> <del>wind</del>
Oct	Yesterday a valuable cow
30	was ran down & killed at our village of Wappin. With a ve locity of 20 miles per hour it is impossible wholly to avoid these accidents; and it is a question whether half this speed would answer all useful purposes.
31	<u>Wednesday</u> m partially cloudy the day Our deciduous trees are now nearly shorn of their foliage and the transition trees [ ] [ ] The cold season is now ap proaching, but with warm cloudy stacks of dry fuel, supplies of food and [ ] man passes the wint er season pleasantly; not so with the poor who devoured our con sumption & [ ] Aid Pinch ing poverty is a bitter pill in cold climates and man perhaps suf fers more severely than animals [ ] hibernation in the ground. The [ ] [ ] is even [ ] & beyond our comprehension but if we cannot comprehend it we may admire the the manner. [ ]



No	<u>Thursday</u> m. fair
vember	wind NE and the day
1	cloudy. Yesterday a few flakes of snow were seen to fall.
2	<u>Friday</u> m. fair wind NE, and the day was Died at S Deerfield on the 24 <sup>th</sup> alt. Revd. William Riddle aged 81 years and 9 months Mr Riddle had been a settled clergyman in Whitingham Vt and Bristol Maine, and is said to have acquired a considerable class ical learning. and offers [    ] essays on various subject in the publications of the day. His religious sentiments were of the old the old orthodox school. In the course of the war with {——} <u>and masonry</u> he often distinguished himself by his es says [    ] the order; and had a lively sense of the attro city exhibited in the mur der of William Morgan. His theology world views would have [    ] more serviceable to [    ]

Nov  
2

had he adopted more  
of the whole philosophical spirit  
which now embraces the  
attention of the liberal clergy, who  
are pruning Christianity of its  
corruption by Calvin & others  
Mr Riddle was a native of  
Colrain & educated at Dartmouth  
College

This month was formerly  
the hunting season, and how  
often have traversed the  
[ ] woods & dark defiles  
with my long leaded gun and  
sagacious dog in search of game  
and brought home the squir  
rel and partridge! The Sport  
though rather barbarous was  
rendered interesting by the void  
ity of the prosecuted, not re  
flecting that innocent ani  
mals were the sufferers. At early  
[ ] we [ ] [ ] of the  
[ ] when [ ] generally [ ] our  
old [ ] and taught us  
that his speed & instinct were

November 2 Superior to our strat  
agens and ambus  
cades. The larger game the  
deer, bear and wolf had become  
scarce in our woods prior to my  
hunting days, and to the old  
hunters we were endebedt for their  
thrilling exploits.  
Angling in our ponds & rivers  
at the proper season, was another  
pleasing sport, how often have  
we born the the silvery string to  
our dwellings, and furnished  
the family with delicious meals  
of changed diet! At that time  
our sports were more masculine  
than the present; and if less  
refined they evinced virtues not  
less commendable. With remi  
niscences of this kind I might fill  
out a volume.

3 Saturday m. partially cloudy  
wind, the day same with wind SW  
[ ] [ ] classed [ ]  
under position as on the proceeding  
[ ] and [ ] [ ] [ ]  
My [ ] [ ] and  
[ ] parts of the body continue  
swollen

and I do not flatter my  
self with one convalescent  
Symptom all indicating  
a fatal derangement of the  
machine. "Oh could I lift  
the arm as in the day Fingal"<sup>26</sup>

- 4 Sunday m. fair, wind NE  
and day fair & pleasant,  
but hazy at the close.
- 5 Monday m. cloudy, wind  
NE cloudy with some  
rain.
- 6 Tuesday m. cloudy early  
some rain & NE wind.  
continued cloudy cloudy  
The death the widow  
of the late [ ] Stebbins  
was an announced this morn
- 7 Wednesday m cloudy  
wind SW and day  
similar
- 8 Thursday m. cloudy  
wind NW  
the same

---

<sup>26</sup> James Macpherson's *Ossian*, Croma poem.